



FALCON  
**FLYER**

Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing  
Vol. 3, No. 11 November 2012



# Team Day 2012



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*Mr. Melvin Smith*

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Submission deadline for the Dec. 2012 issue is Nov. 15. Articles must be submitted electronically to 94AW.PA@us.af.mil. For more information, contact Public Affairs at (678) 655-5055.



photo by Brad Fallin

## Shot in the arm

Capt. Alina Kendrick injects an Airman with a vaccination during a mass inoculation event at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Oct. 13. Air Force Reservists based at Dobbins ARB were brought up to date on their required shots to help ensure unit readiness if called upon.



ON THE  
**COVER**

Michael Sapanza of the 94th Security Forces Squadron gives a swing while participating in the 3rd annual Wing Team Day Home Run Derby Oct. 16. Team Day gives wing members an opportunity to get to know each other better and do some team building. Other events included "Win, Lose or Draw", ping-pong, air hockey, cornhole, football toss, volleyball and tennis. (photo by Don Peek)

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# Remember debt owed to our warriors

By Col. Josephine Almonte  
94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

What comes to mind when you think, “Veteran”? For some of us it’s the stereotypical picture of a World War II or Korean War vet; old, cap-studded with (Veterans of Foreign Wars) campaign pins, saluting the flag during a July 4th parade. Or perhaps a Vietnam Vet, inevitably pictured with long hair, wearing an olive drab field jacket, protesting some injustice.

Yet for a whole new generation of Americans, WWII, Korea and Vietnam are ancient history. For them, a veteran is a contemporary: a classmate or friend returning from a first, or fourth, deployment to the Middle East. There is broad support across the nation for these warriors, and even if they are

not all celebrated as heroes, they are at least deeply respected.

But Americans have a rather short attention span, and the nation is tired of war. Triage was invented in World War I to process effectively the huge numbers of battle casualties. Large numbers of veterans returned home with injuries that prompted the development of rehabilitation programs that became models for industrial accidents. Now, with a decade-long experience at war, medical advances have transformed a 60 percent or 80 percent survival rate to one where 95 percent of wounded soldiers reaching care in the first hour return home to their families.

And therein lies the rub. Just as in WWI, we have thousands of injured veterans coming home; only now to a civilian populace that is thankful for their return, but tired of the war. Some Americans may be disinclined to support the cost of the lifelong care that some of our veterans will require.

Be a Citizen Airman. Our veterans, active and Reserve, came when called no matter what the consequence.

Use your unique point of view and your ties to the community to help our civilian counterparts remember the debt that is owed to our warriors.

Whom do you think of on Veterans Day?



Col. L. Josephine Almonte

## Future Airmen reach new heights during mass enlistment

By Senior Airman  
Christina Bozeman  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On the ground with microphone in hand, Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, looked up to the top of the Dobbins Air Reserve Base control tower and shouted “You’re in; congratulations!”

Tarchick just swore in 19 of the newest enlisted trainees of the U.S. Air Force Reserves. This was the first time ever utilizing the tower to perform an enlistment.

“You’ve all made a big decision,” said Tarchick. “You will gain new skills, meet new people and travel to many new places; all while serving this great nation of ours.”

After the ceremony, the newly enlisted came down from the tower to join their families on the ground.

Brittany Ellis, a graduate of Hiram High School in Cobb County, will attend Dietary



From the cat walk of the Dobbins Air Reserve Base Air Traffic Control Tower, 19 soon to be United States Air Force Reservists take the Oath of Enlistment at a mass enlistment ceremony Oct. 13. (photo by Don Peek)

Therapy technical training after Basic Military Training and become a member of the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

“I loved it,” Ellis said, after enlisting from atop the tower. “I participated in Junior ROTC during high school. I feel like

this is a good experience.”

Ellis’ mother, Brenda Smith, was touched by the ceremony.

“I am overwhelmed,” said Smith. “That was a beautiful thing.”

Sidnie Moore, another trainee, graduated from Kennesaw

Mountain High School in Cobb County. He will attend Pest Management technical training and join the 94th Civil Engineering Squadron.

“My dad was a Marine for 16 years,” Moore said. “He always enjoyed the military; there seems to be a lot of benefits of joining.”

Moore’s mom, Stephanie Moore, was present at the ceremony.

“We loved it,” said Moore. “We’re very proud of him!”

Chief Master Sgt. Wendell L. Peacock, 94th Airlift Wing command chief, commended parents and friends for sharing such a milestone in the trainees’ lives.

“The career opportunities in the Air Force Reserves have expanded far greater over the years since I enlisted,” said Peacock. “Our new trainees have made one of the most important, and fulfilling decisions of their lives.”

# AROUND THE PATTERN



Firefighter Jason Mitchell pours water into a grease fire simulator to show how a kitchen fire can spread during a fire safety demonstration at Hurt Park in Atlanta, Sept. 27. Personnel from Dobbins Air Base Fire and Emergency Services provided information and demonstrations about fire safety at the Georgia State University Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness Carnival. (photo by Brad Fallin)



Master Sgt. Rita McGraw, 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron first sergeant, receives her retirement pin from her husband at a ceremony honoring her military service Oct. 13. (photo by Don Peek)



Hugh Phillips, base energy manager, promotes Energy Action Month at the Base Exchange Oct. 25. This year's motto is, "I am Air Force Energy. "Make energy a consideration in all you do," said Phillips. (photo by Kevin J. O'Sullivan)



Capt. Jamison Delapena of the 94th Communications Squadron prepares to tackle Anthony Bassey of the Army National Guard during game eight of the 94th Force Support Squadron 7 On 7 Flag Football League. The 10 game series is being played between the 94th Maintenance Squadron, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Army National Guard, Navy Operation Support Center and U.S. Marine Corps personnel. Tournaments will take place Nov. 8 and 14 at the base lake-side field. (photo by Roy McKee)



Contractors from Newkirk Electric dig at the site of a future Digital Air Surveillance Radar (DASR) Tower near building 557, Oct. 26. The tower, operated by the 94th Communications Squadron, will have digital capability, and will be more energy efficient. Completion of the tower construction is expected mid 2013. (photo by James Branch)



Col. Richard Kemble, 94th Airlift Wing vice commander, congratulates Tech Sgt. Derek Sanchez, of the 94th Maintenance Group, on his honorable finish of the Air Force Marathon, Oct. 13. The marathon was held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15. (photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten)

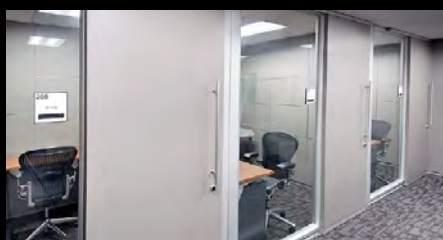


photo by Senior Airman Chelsea Smith

Col. Tim Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, talks after the ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the new Combined Deployment Processing Center here Oct. 13. The renovation project began several months ago in an effort to streamline deployment processing in response to increased deployment tempos and an upcoming operational readiness exercise.

# Ribbon-cutting reveals modern deployment processing center

By Senior Airman Chelsea Smith  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Glimmering polished floors, freshly-painted walls and the distinctive smell of a newly-occupied building marked the unveiling of the recently renovated Centralized Deployment Processing Center here Oct. 13 at building 819. Senior leadership from the 94th Airlift Wing participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the occasion along with members from the 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“The renovation project launched a complete interior revamping of the existing one-story maintenance building, said Victoria Welch, 94th Airlift Wing Civil Engineering administrative assistant. Installation consisted of heating, ventilation and air conditioning, fire protection, sound masking and communication, and the addition of a mezzanine level constructed above the first floor area.”

Renovations began more than a year ago due to the need for centralized deployment processing for deploying wing personnel and command wide individual mobilization augmentees, said Maj. Toney Collins, 94th LRS operations officer.

The facility will staff approximately 20 personnel for ongoing operations, which will soon be evaluated during an upcoming operational readiness exercise.

“Previously our deployers endured longer processing times,” said Collins. “With the newly established deployment center, we

have a consistent location to streamline processing times and the capability of servicing large populations of deployers.”

The Air Force Instruction-driven project also benefits from its convenient locale by operating steps away from the supply building and flight line, areas deployers must visit as part of deployment processing.

Inclusive of the interior renovation project was the installation of DIRT (Doing It Right This Time) furniture, consisting of wall systems that are pre-engineered, pre-manufactured and durable, said Welch. It incorporates a unique design throughout the workspace while leaving the space flexible and adaptable as changes arise.

“Installation of new carpet, flooring, windows, cabinets, ceiling tiles and door hardware was successfully completed,” said Welch.

For example, our explosive ordinance disposal facility and vehicle bay area have been completely renovated, said Welch.

The facility also houses areas for chaplain, medical, transportation management office, legal, eligibility and family readiness personnel, said Collins.

The estimated \$2.5 million project was materialized by the generous efforts of project engineer Bijan Raouf, project inspector DeWayne Ivory, contracting specialist Patricia Sheffield and general contractor, Reams Enterprises, said Welch.

Courtesy photos



**By Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten**  
*94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Last year's team day was cancelled due to weather, but no one could complain about the cool, clear weather this year's team day offered. As luck would have it, the sun smiled down on Dobbins Air Reserve Base this year during the third annual 94th Airlift Wing Team Day.

The weather was only one factor, though. Encouraged to wear jerseys of their favorite sports team, many participants chose to wear garb from alma maters or hometown football teams.

Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander, an Ohio State University fan, was seen sporting his bright red Buckeye jersey. Linking up with other Buckeyes within the wing, he opened up the team day games with a demonstration of Ohio State education by spelling out O-H-I-O in college football fashion.

"We work here every day, and spend more time with the people we work with than our own families," said Tarchick. "This is the perfect opportunity to get to know them better and do some team building."

Food was provided to wing personnel from the Force Support Squadron.

Team day participants were divided up by group, with the wing staff and Aeromedical Staging Squadron forming a com-



bined fourth team. Representatives from each team participated in events such as “Win, Lose or Draw”, ping pong, air hockey, cornhole, football toss, volleyball and tennis.

Richard Conyers Jr. of the 94th AW equal opportunity office, won five points for the AW/ASTS team’s overall score by playing tennis.

“This day was important for the wing’s morale,” said Conyers. “It goes a long way to break up the usual day-to-day grind. I would like to see this implemented during a drill weekend so that the Reservists can also participate and benefit from team day as well.”

The competition was stiff between the four teams, with the Mission Support Group team lagging slightly behind the pack most of the day. By the end of the day however, the MSG team strategically picked their events and came from behind to win the coveted the Team Day Commander’s Trophy.

“The 2010 first annual team day trophy was awarded to the Operations Group,” said Tarchick. “So, this year the Mission Support Group will be added to the back of the trophy. It was a great day, and we will do it again next year.”



# Team Day 2012

# Civic leaders get double dose of AFRC missions



Atlanta area civic leaders from the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., visit the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., for a first-hand look at combat rescue, Oct. 24-25. The group met members of the 45th Space Wing and the 920th Rescue Wing.



Col. Timothy E. Tarchick, 94th Airlift Wing commander and former commander of the 920th Rescue Wing, greets Chief Master Sgt. Doug Kestranek during a civic leader visit to Patrick AFB, Fla., Oct. 25.



Pararescue jumpers are retrieved by an HH-60G Pave hawk during a training exercise over the Banana River near Patrick AFB, Fla. Oct. 25. Civic leaders from the greater Atlanta area were in attendance observing PJ activities.

Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 920th Rescue Wing is the only wing of its type in the Air Force Reserve Command. The wing has completed 18 percent of all rescue missions within the Air Force as a whole.

Given that the Reserve operates on four percent of the budget the Air Force has allocated total, you do the math. Quantitatively, the mission of the 920th RQW is effective.

Qualitatively, the 920th RQW mission can be summed up best by the pararescue jumper motto, *“These things we do that others may live.”*

So what are these things that they do and who are they?

“The people of the 920th are combat veterans for the most part,” said Tarchick. “Not just one tour, but many. They have an amazing mission. It takes a special breed of person to accomplish these things. Just like at Dobbins, the Airmen here are America’s finest.”

Civic leaders from the area surrounding Dobbins Air Reserve Base were invited to Patrick Air Force Base for a tour Oct. 24-25 to answer these questions for themselves. The trip showcased not one but two complete missions of the Air Force – tactical airlift and pararescue. They were able to see the pararescue mission first hand, as well as the special person it takes to become a PJ.

The trip to Patrick AFB, home of the 920th RQW started early for the civic leaders. Meeting at the 94th AW, they were briefed on the Air Force Reserve mission and the part Dobbins plays, before departing to visit the 920th RQW.

Upon landing in Fla., the civic leaders were bused to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station for a highlight tour that pulled at their heartstrings. The tour featured the historic Cape Canaveral lighthouse, and Launch Pad 34, now a memorial honoring fallen astronauts of Appollo 1.

The group was also taken to a launch bunker where the 45th Space Wing offered the civic leaders an important perspective of their mission.

Second Lt. Kelly Patterson, of the 45th SW, spoke about how she contributes to the of the 45th SW, which main-

tains the launch capabilities of the nation’s space assets - namely, rockets.

“We have a lot of things that take pictures of rockets, follow rockets and track rockets,” said Patterson. “There are a lot of people involved. So, we want to make sure that we are taking care of those people, and that we are maintaining that infrastructure. That’s really our priority - to make sure that we are working together as a team toward that capability.”

The 45th SW depends on the 920th RQW to search for and bring back rockets launched from the Space Coast.

Beginning the second day of the trip, the 920th RQW commander and staff members lead the group through a mission briefing, which included stories about various missions of the wing. While most stories were humorous, some elicited different emotions.

Current 94th Airlift Wing and former 920th RQW commander, Col. Tim Tarchick, fondly remembered another informal PJ motto, *“So you think you have what it takes to become one of us? We doubt it.”*

After learning what the 920th RQW mission is, the group was invited to see what a PJ Airman does during a training exercise over the Banana River. PJs exited, via static line parachute, a C-130, while other PJs were dropped into the water and picked up by two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters.

For the jumpers this training was likely commonplace. For the civic leaders, this was a demonstration of skill, talent and courage never before seen.

The group received several take-aways, regarding not only regarding the JP mentality, but Airmanship across the Reserve.

“A key take-away for us isn’t that we got to ride on a C-130 or touch and see neat assets, but that we see the Airmen,” said Travis Ellis, of Mobilize Fuels and member of the Dobbins Honorary Commanders Association. “Airmen who put their lives on the line every day - they do it for us and they do it for not a lot of reward. It’s an awesome thing and it’s not to be taken for granted.”

For a more detailed story, please visit [www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil](http://www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil).





## Airmen encourage each other toward healthy lifestyles

Story and photos by  
Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A good mentor will give you the sound advice that you need to take care of yourself in regards to physical and mental health. If you aren't physically and mentally in shape, it makes taking care of your family members, fellow Airmen and pursuit of any personal goals difficult to accomplish.

A great mentor will get out of the office or shop, challenge you to do things, do these things for themselves and practice what they preach.

Senior Master Sgt. Florencio "Larry" Lopez, 22nd Air Force additional duty first sergeant, has been getting out of his office to maintain his physical fitness standards by attending a Fitness Boot Camp twice a week. His mentor, Master Sgt. Eric Jones, of the 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron, has shown up as well to challenge Lopez and other Airmen.

"This is really more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle," said Lopez. "I smoked for over 20 years and when the PT test came about, I failed multiple times, thinking anyone can do that. I had to quit smok-

ing. You can't incorporate an unhealthy way of living with the Air Force values of a healthy lifestyle."

For the last several years, Lopez has been highly successful at the Air Force PT test, and spends time encouraging others to do the same – just as Jones has encouraged him.

Lopez, is a triathlon competitor and recently competed in a half Ironman Competition. The half Ironman consists of a mile and a half swim, a 56-mile bike and a 13.1-mile run at the end.

"I credit my mentor, Sgt. Jones," said Lopez. "No one can do this program by themselves. Sgt. Jones has been instrumental in getting me going. It takes mentors and instructors to help make people successful."

John Mikula, Dobbins exercise physiologist, instructs the fitness class and uses the Total Body Resistance Exercise, or TRX, Suspension Training, which has roots in Navy SEAL training.

"This program is here to promote people's fitness potential," said Mikula. "Whether it be to pass a physical fitness test, or to participate in events such as the Air Force Marathon or triathlons. We start-

ed this program because we saw a need to increase overall fitness. People seem to find it enjoyable, so we keep it going."

The TRX apparatus, was given to the base, free of charge, while the rest of equipment needed for Mikula's program cost less than \$4,000, according to Mikula. This is less than what one quality machine in a gym costs.

The class is highly effective. Of the participants in the class, 99 percent pass their PT test, according to Mikula. Of the 200 plus people that participate in the program, they have an average increase in scores on their fitness test of 10-15 points.

Jones and Lopez will go forward from here to push each other to compete in future Ironman competitions. They credit Mikula and his fitness program for their successes, and look to encourage other Airmen to come out and increase their fitness.

Mikula offers his strength and conditioning classes for Dobbins members three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.

For more information, please contact John Mikula by phone at 678-655-4363.



# TOUCH & GO's

## Bldg 550 Renovation

Physical and Dental exams will be conducted on Sunday of the UTA in the dental trailer in front of building 550 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All physical exams will start in building 922 on Saturday of the UTA. Visitors will start at the check-in at the desk in the main hallway and will proceed to the back of the classroom for height, weight and blood pressure. Once done, the member will do one of the following:

- See a physician (escorted)
- Go to trailer no. 2 for Immunizations, Lab or Optometry
- Directed to hearing booth
- Escorted to PFT or EKG (if applicable)

Those who only require ancillary services (Immunizations, Lab or Optometry) will report directly to trailer no. 2 behind the finance building 827. These members will be notified by their Unit Health Monitors.

Walk-in hearing exams are from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Only those with a scheduled physical will be seen in the morning.

Flu Shots and Tdap will be administered in Building 838, Bay 2, 8:00 a.m. to

noon Saturday and Sunday of the December UTA. For more info, call (678) 655-4829/4996.

Yellow Ribbon (PHAP), NOSC, and US-NORTHCOM are now operating out of the trailers in the building 550 parking lot near the POW/MIA Memorial Park. Call (678) 655-2464/7079.

ASTS will be operating out of building 922 and the trailers that are located south of building 827 on Warehouse Road. Call Lt. Col. Jonathan Micke (678) 655-2370 for information.

## TSP now offers Roth option

The Thrift Savings Plan is now offering a Roth option that provides Federal employees and service members the ability to make after-tax contributions to their TSP account that will be tax-free when withdrawn. While active duty members can begin participating in the Roth option in Oct. 2012, Guard and Reserve members can begin participating in Oct. 2013. Members can contribute to both the Roth TSP and traditional TSP if desired. To find out more about the new Roth TSP option, visit <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/roth/compareRoth.shtml>.

## New AF Form 1206

The Air Force Form 1206 was revised on Sept. 26 and is published at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/shared/media/epubs/AF1206.xfdl> All award nomination packages currently being processed should be on the current version of the form 1206, effective immediately.

## 56 Group Elections

Dobbins 56 Group Executive Committee Board elections will be held next meeting at noon Sunday, Nov. 4, in building 838, Heritage Hall at 12 noon. President, Vice President, Administrator and Treasurer positions are available. All Tech. Sgts and Staff Sgts. are encouraged to attend. For more info, contact Tech. Sgt. Tanisha Lofton (678) 655-5002.

## UTA Chapel Services

Services are held each UTA Sunday, 7:15 a.m. at the Dobbins Chapel and 8 a.m. at the 80th APS. Chaplains are also available for pastoral counseling during UTA weekends. Contact the Chaplain's office at (678) 655-4956.

<b>Newcomers</b>		<b>Master Sergeant</b>		<b>Senior Airman</b>	
<i>The following Airmen were welcomed to the 94th Airlift Wing in October:</i>					
<b>Airman Basic</b>		Kevya Fontnette 622CEG		Christy Appiah CES	
Michael Frank	MXS			Erica Blue ASTS	
Denzel Johnson	MOF	<b>Chief Master Sergeant</b>		Shehroze Choudhry MXS	
Alexcia King	FSS	Charmaine Harrison 622CEG		Jacqueline Harris LRS	
Richard Nguyen	LRS			Robert James CES	
				Lavertae Marshall FSS	
<b>Airman</b>		<b>Second Lieutenant</b>		John McDermott MXS	
Derek Knight	SFS	Shenelle Emery ASTS		Derrick Mountain ASTS	
		<b>Major</b>		Jon Warrick CES	
		Collin Shelton 22AF		<b>Airman 1st Class</b>	
				Roland Roberts MXS	
<b>Airman 1st Class</b>		<b>Promotions</b>		<b>Airman</b>	
Natalie Banks	CES			Lakeisha Brown SFS	
Kavin Davenport	CES	<b>Technical Sergeant</b>		Justin Carlisle SFS	
Christopher Williams	SFS	Jordan Edgar 700 AS		Ashton Cuttino LRS	
		Timothy Brown 700 AS		Edward Jordan SFS	
		Anthius Bruno 80 APS		Gerald Jordan SFS	
		Mildred Payton 80 APS		Kenzley Ramos LRS	
<b>Senior Airman</b>		<b>Staff Sergeant</b>		Briana Robinson LRS	
George Moss	CES	Kyle Glover 700 AS		Calyn Sanders FSS	
<b>Technical Sergeant</b>		Thomas Huggins MXS		<b>Retirements</b>	
Crystal Herrington	ASTS	George Turner CES		MSgt. Rita McGraw AES	
David Padgett	MXS				

## Last call for "Wingman" award

Supervisors, nominate deserving Airmen for the Ultimate Wingman Award at [www.theultimatewingman.com](http://www.theultimatewingman.com) by Nov. 4. Free event tickets are available at the Public Affairs office for supervisor pickup.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Being thankful

Chaplain (Maj) Olga Westfall  
94th Airlift Wing Chaplains Office



As we approach a season of Thanksgiving we usually get very busy with many things: food preparation, getting family together, the “Black Friday” (day after Thanksgiving sale) and often, in

the midst of all the business and stress we forget the true meaning of Thanksgiving. I would like to invite you to pause and reflect on the goodness of God. It might have been a challenging year for you or it might be you are concerned about your future, but if you are honest with yourself, you will see God’s hand on your life and His goodness. After all, you are still alive and you are reading this article in the Chaplain’s Corner that reminds you about God’s provision and our thankfulness to Him.

One of the most beautiful Psalms of Thanksgiving is the 100th Psalm. “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him & praise His name. For the Lord is good & His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.”

With all my heart I believe we are a people and a nation that has truly been blessed by God. And of all those who “give thanks to Him and praise His name” our name should be at the top of the list!

It is not uncommon to compile wish lists at Christmas, & draw up a list of resolutions for New Years. But there is another list we often overlook, a Thanksgiving Day list of all for which we are thankful.

I would like to encourage you to maintain an attitude of gratitude. I pray that this will be a meaningful Thanksgiving season for you and your family.



photo by Master Sgt. Christian Michael

## NAF activates 622nd CEG

By Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 622nd Civil Engineering Group was activated today at a ceremony held at the 22nd Air Force headquarters building on Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

The newly activated group will place geographically separated reserve civil engineering units under one unified command, located at Dobbins, according to Maj. Gen. Wallace Farris, 22nd Air Force commander.

The group reports directly to the 22nd AF HQ, also located at Dobbins. The 622nd CEG will be responsible for six Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE), three senior staff augmentation teams, and the Expeditionary Combat Support Training and Certification Center.

Assuming interim command of the 622nd CEG is Col. Franklin L. Myers, who is currently assigned as the 556th RED HORSE commander.



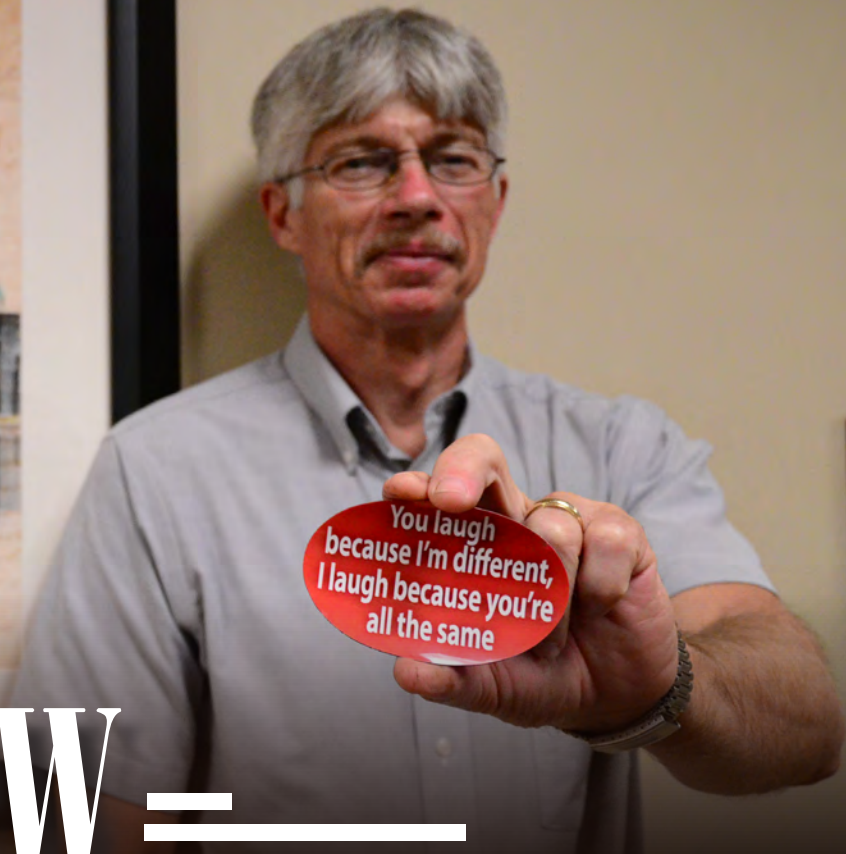
photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten

Top, 22nd Air Force. Above, 22nd Air Force Commander Major General Wallace Farris passes the guidon to 622nd Civil Engineer Group interim commander Col. Franklin L. Myers Oct. 10.

“I plan to do whatever I can do to lay the foundation down for whoever steps into this position next,” said Myers. “I think this is the right thing and the right time for this.”

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# INNERView

## *Melvin W. Smith Jr.*

94th Airlift Wing chief of contracting  
Years of Service - 30  
Hometown - Macon, Ga.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

My turn-ons regarding my current position are the personnel that do what it takes, above and beyond, to support the Mission, Dobbins and/or otherwise. My turn-offs are people that don't put forth the effort.

**Are you prior military?** No. I worked with the Air Force all but two and a half years when I worked with Homeland Security, in charge of Plum Island Animal Disease Center laboratory construction. I started my career at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and circled from there to Robins AFB, Ga., Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (eight years total in charge of Royal Saudi Air Force F-5/F-15/AWACS/Tankers Programs, plus a participant in Desert Shield/Storm), back to Robins and eventually Dobbins ARB, Ga.

**What is your most recent accomplishment?** Our most recent accomplishment

was surviving another fiscal year after suffering through a reduction in manpower, while acquiring more duties. Another continuous accomplishment is knowing we are heading in the right direction and we can work together as a team with the rest of the base. Getting people educated in their specific jobs has been key, "seasoned" with a good dose of common sense. That is important to me for we need personnel, especially leaders, to move us forward in our daily lives.

**What do you do for recreation?** Antiques street rods, hiking, weightlifting and sports - especially football.

**What is your favorite movie?** Animal House

**What advice would give someone who is interested in joining the military or junior enlisted?** Come in, learn your job and do it. Acquire as much education as you can, as quickly as you can, but temper

it with a greater gift - common sense and logic for in the workplace. Never be afraid to make decisions, for you will make mistakes, but learn from them. Come in with a good attitude. Highlight the problem, long enough to get the mentality to the solution.

### **How will you celebrate Veteran's Day?**

I'll go to my pop's cemetery. He served in the Navy. I'll also be with some of my buddies. This is a holiday with major significance, yet too many take it for granted. We see the wounded warriors and respective commercials and our heart goes out to them, but we tend to forget that since the founding of this great Nation, the graveyards are filled with many that gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives for our freedom. This day is a moment of silence for them.

### **Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.**

I am different. People are leaders, and people are followers. You don't want to follow everybody off the same cliff. Somebody has to be different.