



FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Vol. 24 No. 3

482d Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla.

www.afrc.af.mil/482FW

March 2005

Headed for New Horizons

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Photo by Lisa Macias

Staff Sgt. Kevin French (right) and Senior Airman Joachim McDonald (center), both from the 70th Aerial Port Squadron, work with a loadmaster from Dover AFB, Md. The three aerial porters loaded the first C-5 with cargo and supplies for the three month operation in El Salvador. See the story on page 3.

ESGR - an important part of readiness

By Col. Randall G. Falcon,
482d Fighter Wing Commander



Air Force Reserve photo

Our success as a war fighting organization depends on several components working and cooperating together. Pilots, maintainers, billeting, feeding, all these and more must work in unison to successfully complete every mission.

As reservists, the support of our civilian employers also lists among the components described above. One critical, and often underrated, part of our success is the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The ESGR is a nation-wide organization sponsored by the Department of Defense. Its mandate is to support our Traditional Reservist force, people like you and me, by interfacing between reservist and employer. Most ESGR members are volunteers and all share a single minded goal; to provide you, the reservist with the most effective and timely employment assistance possible.

Occasionally one of our reservists and their civilian employer reach an impasse because the reservist is away from the job due to military orders. In the worst case a reservist can face firing or reduction. That's what the ESGR helps us avoid. If you have a conflict with your civilian employer caused by your service in the Air

Force Reserve, contact the ESGR and let them help you. They will contact your employer and assist you to resolve the conflict. They are quite successful in protecting the employment rights of our troops.

As members of the Air Force Reserve you enjoy many protections for your employment. ESGR is here to help you. As more of our reservists are activated in support of Iraqi Freedom or spend increasing time supporting our other missions, the role of the ESGR becomes more critical.

If you have a conflict with your civilian employer due to your military service, call Bud Wallen at 786-348-7611. He is the ESGR area chairperson for South Florida and is waiting to assist you.

Plan ahead - for your sake and for others

By Senior Master Sgt. Freddie Harris,
482d MXS 1st Sgt.

Have you ever taken a trip and made no plans, no reservations, just jumped in your car and headed out on the road? Once, I made that mistake during spring break and paid a heavy price for not planning.

After working eight hours, I drove from Macon, Georgia to central Florida. After driving for about four hours I pulled off the Florida Turnpike to get a room. I had never experienced a problem securing a room, but I found that every room was taken by the spring break crowd.

I continued on my trip, and every hotel had the "no vacancy" sign displayed. I drove ten hours before I reached my destination, and never found a room.

Many reservists still fail to make reservations for lodging. They arrive for the UTA on Friday afternoon to find there's no vacancy. All reservists who are eligible for

lodging must sign up one month ahead of time.

Each squadron has one point of contact who hand carries lodging reservations to the Wing Lodging Monitor no later than Wednesday after each UTA. It's pretty simple; just sign in for pay and find the reservation form for next month and sign up.

If you fail to sign up, or cancel your reservation what should be the punishment? If you had to reserve a room with your credit card, and were charged a non-cancellation fee, how many times do you think you would make that mistake?

Be courteous to your fellow Airmen who may need a room at lodging. Make your reservations each month at sign in, and cancel your reservation as soon as you know that you will be unable to attend the UTA. Contact your immediate supervisor or your unit's Lodging POC for more information.

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Flight Lines newspaper is published monthly by the 482d Fighter Wing Office of Public Affairs for the commander. Copies are mailed, free of charge, to the homes of all reservists. Content is news articles and features developed for release to commercial media as a part of the Air Force Reserve's continuing public affairs program. Opinions of contributors are not necessarily those of the Air Force Reserve or the 482d Fighter Wing. This Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The flag on the top front page of the Flight Lines was designed by Master Sgt. Raymond Sarracino.

Operation New Horizons

Civil Engineers deploy for humanitarian mission in El Salvador

By Senior Airman Sandra M. Bueno

By the time you read this, Homestead's 482d Civil Engineering Squadron will have begun their Department of Defense Humanitarian Mission; Lead Operational Unit for New Horizons 2005 El Salvador.

Deploying from January 12 through May 7, more than 70 traditional reservists from the 482d Fighter Wing will work alongside active duty Air Force, Army and Navy personnel in the creation a one three-room school, a two-

room clinic and three MEDRETE, Medical Readiness Training Exercise Clinics in San Vicente, the central region of the country.

Normally awarded to a "Red Horse," Readily Deployable Team (self-sufficient and in-charge of heavy undertakings,) or active duty units, the mission will "provide excellent training and a real world contingency operation without the bullets for all service members involved," said Joint Task Force Commander, Major William S. Riehl III, 482d CE Chief of Contracts.

The 482d Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron is the first reserve "Prime Beef" unit to lead and plan the entire New Horizons project. Prime Beef CE units provide tools and personnel for mission accomplishment. According to 482d CE commander Lt. Col. Mark Wolfe, two previous New Horizons deployments to Guatemala and Honduras have paved the way for us to take charge of the current operation.

With close to 40 percent of the 482d CE's deploying forces speaking Spanish, the mission is slated to be a highly publicized humanitarian and diplomatic event. El Salvador is the only Latin American Country that has troops in Iraq, added Lt. Col. Wolfe.



Photo by Lisa Macias

Below right: A C-5 arrives at Homestead ARB, Fla. to transport cargo to San Vicente, El Salvador in support of Operation New Horizons. **Above:** Tim "the general" Norton and Larry Franklin, of the 482d Transportation Squadron, load cargo pallets on a C-5 headed to El Salvador. A total of 70 traditional reservists from the 482d Civil Engineering will deploy to El Salvador in the next three months to take part in the humanitarian mission.



Photo by Lisa Macias

Maritime Safety and Security Team 91114 commissioned

By Lt. j.g. Henry Irizarry, MSST 91114 Public Affairs Officer

On January 31st the Coast Guard Commissioned its thirteenth Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) right here at Homestead Air Reserve Base. Vice Adm. Vivien S. Crea, Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander, was the presiding official for the ceremony. United States Congressional Representative for Florida's Eighteenth District, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, was the guest speaker.

Stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, MSST Miami's duties include protecting military load-outs, enforcing security zones, defending harbors, stopping illegal activities, such as drug trafficking and the transport of illegal immigrants, and providing shore side protection in the Miami area. Additionally, the unit will complement the efforts of other Coast Guard personnel in the area, by assisting with search and rescue cases and other law enforcement operations.

MSSTs are specialized fast-response units created in response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Modeled after the Port Security Unit and Law Enforcement Detachment programs, MSSTs offer a complementary, non-redundant Coast Guard capability possessing expertise in anti-terrorism tactics. Prior to its commissioning, MSST Miami's crew of 78 active duty members began training in August. The crew engaged in a rigorous physical fitness

regime, sharpened its boat handling skills and reviewed maritime law enforcement tactics and procedures for two months. The team then traveled to the Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center, which is located at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for four weeks where the team learned about advanced boat tactics, advanced weapons handling and anti-terrorism force protection. Such training gave MSST Miami the skills to perform a broad range of port security and harbor defense missions.

MSST Miami is divided into two components—a waterside security boat section and a shore side Maritime Law Enforcement/force protection detail. MSST Miami's capabilities continue to expand. A dive team comprised of eight crewmembers specializing in detecting and handling underwater explosives is slated to be operational in the summer. Another group will train in vertical insertion operations using Jayhawk helicopters to aggressively board non-compliant vessels later this year.

While MSST Miami's area of responsibility encompasses the Coast Guard's Seventh District (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and the Caribbean), it has ancillary responsibility to the entire east coast of the United States. Like the other twelve MSSTs, MSST Miami is fully deployable and could be assigned anywhere in the U.S. and the world.



Photo by Lisa Macias

The U.S. Coast Guard is a multi-mission maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to protecting the safety and security of America. MSST Miami is the thirteenth team created since 9/11.

Traditional reservist commands 10th Air Force

By Master Sgt. Bill Goben
10th Air Force Public Affairs

FORT WORTH, Texas – Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin assumed command of 10th Air Force during a change-of-command ceremony at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth Jan. 20.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, officiated the ceremony. General Poulin replaced Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, who became the AFRC vice commander Jan 21.

Before assuming command of 10th Air Force as a traditional reservist, General Poulin was the mobilization assistant (MA) to the commander of Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., from March 2000 to January 2005.

From December 1997 to February 2000, he was MA to the commander of U.S. Air Forces

Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Before that assignment, he was MA to the commander of 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., from January 1996 to December 1997.

At Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., he was vice commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing from August 1993 to January 1996, commander of the wing's operations support squadron from October 1989 to August 1993 and commander of the 93rd Tactical Fighter Squadron from September 1986 to October 1989.

As 10th Air Force commander, General Poulin oversees the operation of all AFRC fighter, bomber, rescue, airborne warning and control, special operations, flying training, combat air operations battle staff, and space units. When mobilized, these units are gained by Air Combat Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air



Air Force Reserve photo

Maj. Gen Allan R. Poulin assumes command of 10th Air Force

Education and Training Command, Pacific Air Forces, Air Force Space Command, and Air Force Materiel Command.

Col. Jimmy Mills, 10th Air Force assistant vice commander, runs the day-to-day operation of the numbered air force when General Poulin is not on duty. (AFRC News Service)

Reservists switch to myPay; LES becomes paperless

Jan. 1 was the deadline for Air Force reservists to start using myPay, the Internet method for managing pay.

If they didn't sign up, they may find it difficult to know how much they are getting paid. The Feb. 1 leave and earning statement is the last paper copy reservists will receive through the mail. The change for Air Force Reserve Command civilian employees depends on local bargaining obligations at their units, but eventually they too are to use myPay.

Under the myPay program, people view their LES online. If they don't have access to the Web at home or at work, they should contact their respective reserve or civilian pay offices.

To use their myPay account, reservists were supposed to activate their personal identification number by Dec. 31.

If reservists don't have a PIN or need a new one, they can obtain a temporary PIN through their reserve pay office or the local Air Force finance office, said Mike Bilbrey, chief of the management and finance branch at Headquarters AFRC.

"These offices have 'trusted agent' access and can assign a PIN," he said.

Another way to obtain a temporary PIN is by going to the myPay Website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and selecting the "new pin" button on the homepage. It may take 10 business days from the date of the request for mail delivery of the new PIN.

In addition, reservists can ask for a new PIN by fax or mail. They need to sign their request and give their full name, social security account number, a copy of their military photo identification and a daytime telephone number.

The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. The mailing address is:

DFAS-Cleveland/Code PMMCCA, Attn: myPay, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland OH 44199-2055.

The new temporary PIN will contain the last five digits of the person's social security account number.

People should wait at least two business days before using their PIN if they got it by fax and four days if by mail. They will not receive confirmation that their PIN has changed. (AFRC News Service)

Keeping planes in the air

AGE crews are more than mechanics

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Veronica Aceveda, 512th AW/PA

In an era when aircraft operations often dominate military headlines, the unsung heroes who make launching planes possible often go unrecognized.

Aerospace Ground Equipment technicians at Homestead Air Reserve Base are responsible for maintaining and dispatching nearly 190 pieces of ground equipment in support of the F-16 flying mission, transient aircraft and other support agencies on base.

According to the 482d AGE mission statement, an AGE technician is one of the most diversified-trained mechanics in the Air Force.

“Our guys have to know everything from heaters and compressors to hydraulics and electronics,” said 482d AGE Flight chief, Mr. David Howard. “You simply can’t get the plane off the ground without AGE support.”

Homestead’s AGE team consists of nine Air Reserve Technicians and five traditional reservists, all of whom are trained to maintain and operate 47 different types of equipment.

The AGE shop is like a commercial taxi service - it uses a dispatcher to track incoming calls and outgoing service. AGE dispatchers receive equipment requests from either an aircrew or support unit such as the structural shop, where aircraft are painted.

For example, a paint job for one aircraft requires the use of at least seven different pieces of ground equipment, said Tech. Sgt. Luis Ayala, 482d Maintenance Squadron structural technician. “It would be impossible for us to do our job without AGE,” he said.

Maintenance stands and jacks, both a part of AGE’s inventory, are a

couple of the items needed to complete an aircraft repaint. “Unless we’re already dispatched onto the flightline, we usually deliver within 5 to 10 minutes,” said the flight chief, who’s also an ART.

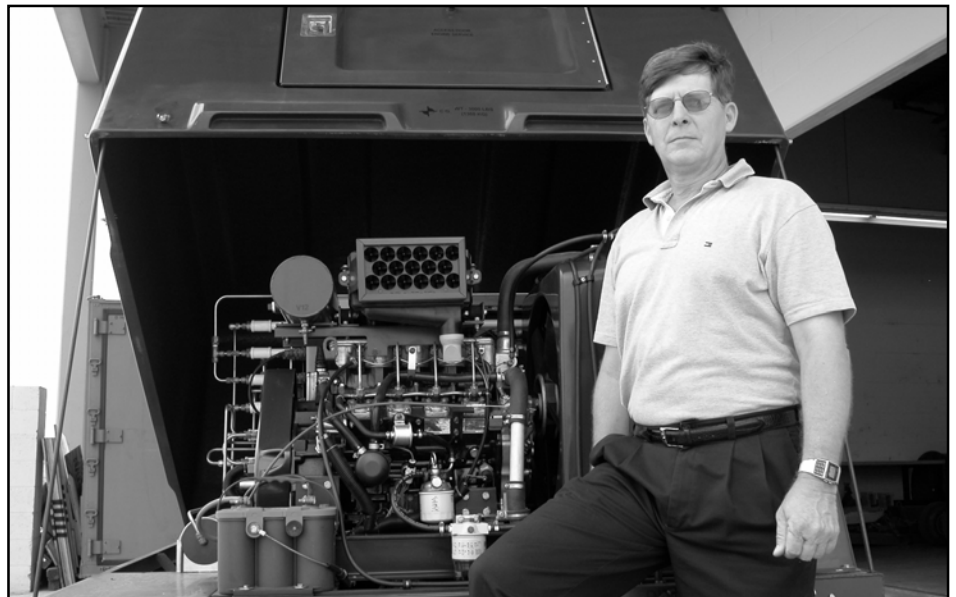
Once the borrowing shop is finished with the ground equipment, AGE workers ensure the pieces are picked up, serviced and prepared for the next user. On an average day, Mr. Howard said AGE personnel handle about 40 requests. “There are different taskings everyday; nothing’s ever the same,” he said.

AGE technicians even serve as instructors. They teach other unit members how to operate the various types of ground equipment including the most frequently used piece of machinery, the “Dash-60.” It’s a generator, used to power up an aircraft before launch.

Not only is the “Dash-60” the most commonly dispatched piece of equipment, it’s also the most challenging to maintain said Mr. Howard, who has more than 20 years’ AGE experience. “There’s always a potential hazard for the ‘Dash-60’ to explode if it’s not tuned properly,” he said.

Because of the dangers associated with the career field, most AGE repairmen are familiar with “DINSTAAR.” It’s an acronym meaning “danger is no stranger to an AGE ranger.”

Whether AGE technicians are delivering “Dash-60s” or fixing floodlights, AGE crews are the muscle behind the mission. So, the next time a media outlet covers a successful aircraft mission, remember AGE’s motto: No air power without ground power. *(more photos next page)*



David Howard has been the 482d Aerospace Ground Equipment’s Flight chief for 11 years. He’s responsible for nearly \$5 million dollars worth of ground equipment. The flight chief is standing next to the unit’s newest piece of equipment. The \$45,000 Self Generator Nitrogen Cart compresses and purifies air to 95 percent, which is used on aircraft struts, tires and landing gear. Mr. Howard is also the base’s reigning golf champion for the past two years.

Right: performing oil changes and inspections of various ground equipment is considered regularly scheduled maintenance in the 482d Aerospace Ground Equipment shop. AGE technicians like Tech. Sgt. Vic Ramtahal are also trained to provide immediate responsive flightline support such as delivering a short-notice need for power on the flightline.



Tech. Sgt. Vic Ramtahal, 482d Aerospace Ground Equipment Flight maintenance technician, is changing the oil filter on a hydraulic test stand. AGE crews perform thorough inspections on the unit's three hydraulic test stands every six months as part of their preventative maintenance program.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Veronica Aceveda, 512th AW/PA

Right: Tech. Sgt. Vic Ramtahal, 482d Aerospace Ground Equipment Flight maintenance technician, performs an electrical test on a bomb lifter. Electronics is just one field AGE repairmen must remain proficient in. Ground crews also perform various systems checks ranging from air conditioning systems to turbine-powered generators. Sergeant Ramtahal has been with Homestead's AGE shop for about five years.



Navy student pilots earn wings at Homestead ARB

Story and photo by Jake Shaw

Think back to your grade school days. Remember catapulting English peas in the school cafeteria with your spork? Now imagine a huge ship catapulting a \$30 million dollar jet with you sitting in the cockpit. See the similarity?

Dangerous, exciting, risky; these are all words that come to mind when describing what Navy fighter pilots do for a living. They land jets on a short, narrow surface surrounded by water on all sides.

Maj. Joe "Corky" Matchette, an F-16 pilot with the 93d Fighter Squadron, was the project officer for the base, and was responsible for planning and coordinating with the Navy before and during the training period. Maj. Matchette had this to say about the Navy pilots, "F-16 pilots are used to landing on an airstrip that is at least a mile and a half long, but those Navy guys land on an unnaturally short runway. As I explained to some of the students, precision landings are not our priority."

From 24 – 28 January, a large group of Navy student pilots refined their skills at Homestead ARB. About 60 student pilots visited to perform the carrier-landing phase of their pilot training. They brought 35 T-45 training jets and 150 support personnel to help them perform the task at hand.

With all the extra aircraft and personnel at Homestead

ARB during the week, the operation tempo saw a significant increase. According to Maj. Matchette, "this training would not have been possible without a team effort by the people working at base operations, fuels and the aircraft control tower."

The carrier landing certification phase is the final test for Navy student pilots. After nearly two years of air combat, acrobatic and formation flying, carrier landing either makes or breaks the potential "Top-Guns."

In a one-week period, the student pilots had to complete ten landings and four touch-and-goes on the USS John F. Kennedy, a Navy aircraft carrier that was sailing approximately 80 miles off the gulf coast of South Florida.

After completing the landings and touch-and-goes on the carrier, some of the students received their "soft wings." Soft wings are given to student pilots immediately after they finish all pilot training requirements. When the students return to their home station, they receive the highly coveted gold wings to affix to their uniforms.

One of the student pilots who received soft wings was Lt. j.g. Jason Duffie. Landing on a carrier is like "taking a minivan, hitting a brick wall, and hoping your seat belt will stop you," he said. During the week of training, a total of 48 pilots were carrier certified, with about half of them receiving their soft wings.

So how did the new pilots celebrate after they got their wings? According to their commander, CAPT Tom Hills, by enjoying "an adult beverage or two."



35 Navy T-45 training aircraft visited Homestead ARB from 24 - 28 January to perform the carrier certification phase of pilot training. By the end of the week 48 student pilots were certified for carrier landing.

Suspicious Package Alerts First Responders

Fire Department, EOD and SFS respond; training pays off

By Lisa Macias

At approximately 1219 hours on Feb. 11, a suspicious package was discovered at billeting, which triggered the response of the fire department, Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, and security forces.

As each unit responded, they took immediate action. Security forces began an evacuation of the area and set up traffic control points while the fire department looked for smoke, fire or injury. In the meantime, Master Sgt. Derald Ortloff donned his EOD-8 entry bomb suit which serves to protect the technician from heat, overexposure, fragmentation and certain contaminants. He then conducted a close inspection of the package.

After the package was inspected, it was deemed harmless and non-incendiary. However, the real-world significance of what "could have been" is what these units prepare and train for on a daily basis.

"One must never allow oneself to assume there is no potential for danger in such a response," stated Base Fire Chief Jacob Grier. "One never knows." Even though prior calls of this nature have all been false alarms, these units were prepared to react.

By undergoing joint responder and WMD training, first responders gain knowledge in how to work together for a common cause. Each individual knows what duties are expected and he/she carries them out. Having a plan of action and implementing that plan, allows on-scene commanders to tell each responder what needs to get done.

Juan Lemus, one of the first arriving members of security forces, saw the professionalism in the event stating, "it was the combined, quick and efficient response from all the organizations involved which made this a success."



Photo by Jake Shaw

With assistance from Master Sgt. Michael Korbely, Master Sgt. Derald Ortloff "suits up" in an EOD-8 bomb suit. Moments after this photo was taken, Sgt. Ortloff entered one of the rooms at billeting and x-rayed a suspicious package. After examining the suspicious package, SFS personnel reported that someone had apparently left their briefcase in a room. Fortunately for all involved, the briefcase contained nothing more lethal than paperwork.

Trespass notice

The 482d Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section, located adjacent to U.S. Customs Service at 29380 Customs Road Building 203, is off limits to trespassers and those who are not conducting official business. Trespassing is not only illegal but also dangerous because of gunfire. Trespassers will be reported to 482d Security Forces for prosecution. For entry please contact Master Sgt Horne, NCOIC, Combat Arms at (305) 224-6709 or Master Sgt Vargas, Chief, Security Forces Training and Resources at (305) 224-7539.

Free cruise tickets

Discovery cruise lines is offering complimentary cruises to the Bahamas for military members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan in 2004. Call 1-800-937-4477 or visit their website at www.discoverycruiseline.com to register. Military ID and proof of the location where you served will be required to receive tickets.

Free admission to theme parks

Sea World Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa are offering complimentary admission to any military member from now until Dec. 31. Three direct dependents of military personnel can also receive free admission to the parks. To register for tickets, log on the internet at <http://www.herosalute.com/cavatx/index.html> or register at the entrance of the theme park. You must have your Dept of Defense ID card with you when you enter the theme park. Mention the Hero Salute program if registering in person.

Air Force Aid Fund

The Air Force Aid Fund is the official charity of the Air Force, and their annual drive is underway. Contributions are accepted directly from individuals, clubs and organizations, both military and civilian. Contact the Family Support Center at (305) 224-7329 for more information.

Family Support Groups forming in community

The American Red Cross and the Miami Vet Center are forming family support groups open to all families and friends of veterans who are currently serving or have served in the Global War on Terrorism. The groups will begin meeting in March at various locations around Miami-Dade county. Contact Matthew Walton of the American Red Cross at (305) 644-1200, ext 157 for more information, including meeting times and locations.

— Newly assigned —

Airman Basic

Sebastian Dillard, 482d SVS

Airman 1st Class

Joshua Johnson, 482d AMXS

Saul Muvdi, 482d LRS

Tara Austin, 482d MSS

Jason Sterr, 70th APS

Senior Airman

Oscar Casanova, 482d AMXS

Matthew Kimber, 482d AMXS

Fernando Vazquez, 482d CES

Michael Tincher, 482d MXS

Belinda Hendren, 482d SVS

Maryrochelle Small, 482d COMM

Alejandro Carrillo, 70th APS

Jeremiah Malsom, 70th APS

Maris Nelson, 70th APS

Brian Starling, 70th APS

Davina Wong, 482d MXS

Staff Sgt.

Adam Ramirez, 482d MDS

Bravilo Almonte, 482d SFS

Javier Sequeria, 482d SFS

Fred Roberts, 482d CES

Tech. Sgt.

Verdie Pickett, Jr., 482d MXS

1st Lt.

Raymond Bradshaw, 70th APS

Makos wish Mazz farewell

Time: 1600

Date: 19 Mar

Location: Mako trough



Photo by Tech. Sgt Paul Dean

*By Lt. Col. Court Collier,
93d Fighter Squadron*

Saturday, 19 March, at 1600, Major Steve Mazzola will retire from the Air Force. He will be closing out a distinguished 20 year career.

Major Mazzola was born and raised in Miami, where he graduated from Westminster Christian High School. On June 2, 1982, he graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. Following active duty assignments in the T-37 at Columbus AFB and the F-16 at Hill AFB, Major Mazzola became a pilot for Delta Air Lines. In January of 1993 he joined the Makos.

He has flown 5 combat tours in NORTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH. Major Mazzola is married to Christine Serpico, and they live in Boca Raton. His squadron mates wish Godspeed in all his future endeavors.

Making sense of the RCPHA and ADE

By Capt. Haydee Gelpi, 482d Dental Services

Those who joined the AF Reserve before 2002 remember when visits to the Medical Squadron were rare and the 5-year periodic physical examination was the standard. The Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment (RCPHA), with its emphasis on annual assessments of health risks, replaced the 5-year periodic physical and represents a greatly improved approach in evaluating the health of our Reserve Component (RC) force.

One aspect of the RCPHA process that has had a significant impact on service is the Annual Dental Exam (ADE). If you've visited Dental Services in the past year, you've noticed some long lines and waiting times. RCPHA requirements mandate a military dental exam every three years – scheduled together with a Detailed health assessment. During the two off years, members do not see a military dentist, but must submit a DD Form 2813, Active Duty/Reserve Forces Dental Examination Form, certified by a civilian dentist. The form should be submitted during your annual Routine health assessment

Each month, an average of 100 members require either

Routine or Detailed dental exams; however Dental Services does not have the resources to provide for all. Reservists are expected to use their civilian dentists as part of routine preventive oral care; this will save time for everyone.

Some may grumble about the cost of seeing a civilian dentist, because seeing a military dentist is free. Well, there is an inexpensive option available through TRICARE. Reservists can enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) for just \$9.32 a month. For the price of half a tank of gas, you can ensure your deployability and your oral health.

TDP benefits are inexpensive and cover your Annual Dental Exam, X-Rays, and preventive cleanings, as well as a variety of other dental services (with reasonable co-payments). One thing has not changed with the implementation of the RCPHA; regardless of who accomplishes your ADE, if dental deficiencies are discovered, you must correct them to remain deployable – and this can be costly without insurance. Visit the TDP web site for detailed information at <http://www.ucci.com/was/uccweb/tdp/tdp.jsp>.

Avoid long lines at Medical and Dental

Tips to make your RCPHA and ADE painless

You have a six-month window of time leading up to your birth month to complete all RCPHA requirements – start early. If your birth month is December, June isn't too soon to get started.

1. Take the web-based Reserve Component Health Risk Assessment (RCHRA) BEFORE you visit the Medical Squadron. The RCHRA is available at: <https://www.wbits.afrc.af.mil>.
2. Avoid standing in lines when possible. Make an appointment with a civilian dentist well in advance of your birth month and fax your completed and signed DD Form 2813 to (305) 224-6811.
3. Make a habit of seeing a dentist annually (schedule exams within the 6-month window).

Remember, you have half a year to complete all RCPHA requirements, but if any element of the RCPHA, including the ADE, is incomplete after the last day of your birth month, you will be considered "overdue" and you may be placed in a non-deployable status. Members in this status are not permitted to perform IDT for pay or points and can be administratively discharged.

Call Dental Services at (305) 224-7618 if you have any questions.

Profiles of reserve members

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) profiles outstanding members of the 482d Fighter Wing as motivational success stories and to set an example for the Air Force Reserve community.

By Master Sgt. Tina Davis

I guess I would have to say that I was born to be in the Air Force. I grew up as a typical Air Force "Brat". I was born at Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach Florida in August of 1971.

My dad was in the Air Force and Vietnam was still going on so he was gone for almost the first two years of my life. My mom was in the Air Force but rules for women were much different back then. She wasn't allowed to be pregnant and remain in the Air Force so she had to get out.

I traveled extensively as a child. When my dad would get called up, my mom would pack my sister, brother and I up and off we'd go to spend time with my grandparents in Massachusetts. My dad's career in the Air Force took us all over the eastern seacoast. I lived in Georgia, Florida, Delaware, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and back to Florida. My mom was a real "pro" at tearing down and setting up a home...and every new place we went to turned into an adventure.

I also learned that every place and every one that I met was special and I took a part of them with me when we moved. I stayed in touch with a lot of my childhood friends and to this day we visit and reminisce on how nice and fun our lives were.

I moved to Homestead in the early part of 1980 and my mom joined the 482d. They became my second family. Some of the people that are in the unit are like my "aunts & uncles" and have watched

me grow up. There was "Uncle Chief J.J. Jennings who used to baby sit me sometimes, and "Aunt Connie" Dodson who saw me through my worst hair perms, first dates and Prom night.

When I first went to the base with my mom they let me sit in the back seat of an F-4, and I think that's when I first got excited about the Air Force. I met so many wonderful people and I found that as I got older they were the kind of people I wanted to emulate. I graduated from Homestead High School in 1989 and after a year of working various jobs, I decided to join the Air Force Reserve..

I remember how scared I was the day I enlisted. My mom was there for my enlistment and it was a very emotional and proud moment for her. Then my older sister also enlisted in the Navy. We were fast becoming a "traditional" military family.

I came back to Homestead and started my career with the 482d Fighter Wing. I first worked in Admin for Chief Breslin. I was nominated and won Airman of the Quarter, NCO of the Quarter and Civilian of the Year.

I volunteered to help paint schools in the local community to help give back some of what my community does for me. I have been part of the Family Day team for Christmas and I joined the Honor Guard which I consider a great honor to serve in.

I'm currently working in the Military Personnel Flight section in career advisement and I love my job because I love working with people. I hope I can make a difference in

them like so many people in this unit made in my life when I was younger.

The Air Force Reserve has helped me tremendously. It has given me the opportunity to travel to countries I would have never been able to go on my own. It has given me the pleasure of meeting and working with so many wonderful people, and like in my childhood days I will take a piece of them wherever I go. I hope that I am passing down the values that were instilled in me by my grandparents and parents to my children. And who really knows what the future holds? Perhaps someday my daughters will choose to become the next generation to serve in the 482d Fighter Wing? What a great legacy to pass on.



Air Force Reserve photo

Master Sgt. Tina Davis has grown up in the 482d Fighter Wing. Above, Sgt. Davis was captured on film by her mother in 1990. Standing next to Sgt. Davis is her sister, who joined the Navy.