



# FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

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November 2006



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## Mako Maintainers



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean*

Tech. Sgt. Adam “Koz” Kosowsky, 482nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was named dedicated crew chief for aircraft tail-number A-405 during the 482nd Maintenance Group’s first annual awards ceremony here on Oct. 15. While accepting the miniature tail flash from his commander, Lt. Col. June Groff, Sgt. Kosowsky was greeted by his two year-old daughter, Alexa, who was obviously proud of her dad. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for the full story and a list of all of the award winners.

# What exactly is a Veteran?



*Air Force Reserve photo*

**By Col. Randy Falcon  
482nd Fighter Wing Commander**

This month I'd like each and every one of you to stop and think about what Veterans Day means to you, and ponder "What exactly is a veteran?"

On Nov. 11, cities across America will host parades to honor veterans, and civic organizations across the globe will show their thanks to all of you in various ways, like free admission to theme parks, etc.

For me personally, on Veterans Day I always pause to think about the veterans who served before me. Some made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country and the freedoms

we enjoy. Others showed extreme bravery and heroism and lived to tell about it. You may actually be standing next to some of them if you attend a parade or other gathering in the community on this Veterans Day.

But veterans come in many shapes and sizes, with varying experience and stories. Have you ever thought of yourself as a veteran?

On Veterans Day you should honor those around you who tell the story of years past when they served with pride, but also realize that by telling you their story, they are honoring you. You see, they won't tell their stories to just anyone, they want to share their special stories with other Veterans.

What I mean is this – each and every one of you are veterans. Whether you've served in combat or not, whether you have been serving 6 months or 30 years, you are all veterans. And I would also include all of our civil servants in this category. They serve their country as you do; they help support you when you depend on them world-wide.

I say a veteran is a hero, not because of what they do, but because of what they believe in. Veterans believe that our country is the greatest in the history of the world, and they believe that it is sometimes necessary to make extreme sacrifices to protect our great nation and what it means to Americans.

Veterans believe that they have a purpose in life, and that purpose is to serve. They serve for their families, their communities, and they hold themselves to a higher standard than most people. Veterans believe in doing what's right, even when there are no consequences for doing what's wrong.

I urge each of you to go out into your community on Veterans Day, honor your fellow veterans and allow them to honor you. You are all heroes in my book, regardless of rank, where you served or what your job title is. You believe in serving and protecting your country and for that you should be proud and you should go out and allow your fellow Americans to recognize you.

## **The following events are being held on Nov. 11 in your local community:**

Miami Seaquarium is offering free admission to military personnel with an ID card, and 50-percent off admission to military family members with ID card.

For more information contact Jake Shaw at (305) 224-7263.

A group of professional fishing guides are hosting a Veterans Day fishing tournament at Homestead Bayfront Park (Biscayne Bay) in Homestead. Priority will be given to disabled veterans, but all veterans are encouraged to call and sign up for this free event. For more information contact Captain Dave Sutton at (305) 248-6126.

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# President, military leaders dedicate Air Force Memorial

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - On behalf of a grateful nation, the President of the United States accepted the Air Force Memorial in a dedication ceremony here Oct. 14 attended by military leaders of the past and present, political and business representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens and Airmen alike.

“Soldiers can walk the grounds where they fought for freedom,” said President George W. Bush, “and Marines can wander down the beaches they stormed, but Airmen can never visit the spacious skies they raced across in the defense of our freedom. But now, they can come here.”

The ceremony was the highlight of a daylong open house event that attracted thousands of people from around the country to the south parking lot of the Pentagon. Huge screens were put up which allowed the visitors in the parking lot to view the dedication ceremony, which took place at the base of the memorial.

For the complete story on the dedication of the Air Force Memorial, go to [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and search “President Memorial”. You can also find numerous highlights, photos and streaming video clips from the dedication by searching “Air Force Memorial”.



Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

On behalf of all American citizens President George W. Bush accepts the Air Force Memorial from Air Force Memorial Foundation Chairman Ross Perot Jr. during a dedication ceremony at its Arlington, Va. location overlooking the Pentagon on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006. Looking on are, from left: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley.

## Air Force leaders to discuss new ‘Cyber Command’

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force leaders are gathering in early November to discuss plans for creation of a new command, one chartered with flying and fighting in cyber space.

Cyberspace became an official Air Force domain, like air and space, on Dec. 7, 2005, when Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley introduced a new mission statement.

In a letter to Airmen, they said the new mission was to “deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace.”

Now, Air Force leaders are planning to stand up a new “cyber command,” to be responsible for fighting in that domain, said General

Moseley.

“To deliver the full spectrum of effects we will evolve a coherent enterprise, with warfighting ethos, ready to execute any mission in peace, crisis and war,” the general said. “We will foster a force of 21st century warriors, capable of delivering the full spectrum of kinetic and non-kinetic, lethal and non-lethal effects across all three domains. This is why we are standing up an operational command for cyberspace, capable of functioning as a supported or supporting component of the joint force.”

Air Force leaders begin planning for the new cyber command Nov. 16 at the Cyber Summit. During the summit, Air Force leaders will chart a way ahead for the Air Force’s role in cyberspace, also called the cyber domain, said Dr. Lani Kass, director of the Air Force Cyberspace Task Force.

“The chief of staff of the Air Force is going to gather his senior officers and talk about the new domain, in which, according to our mission, we are going to fly and fight,” she said. “Our objective is to come out with a course, a vector, that will set us up for transforming our Air Force, to get us ready for the fight of the 21st century.”

According to Dr. Kass, cyberspace is neither a mission nor an operation. Instead, cyberspace is a strategic, operational and tactical warfighting domain — a place in which the Air Force or other services can fight.

“The domain is defined by the electromagnetic spectrum,” Dr. Kass said. “It’s a domain just like air, space, land and sea. It is a domain in and through which we deliver effects — fly and fight, attack and defend — and

**See COMMAND, pg. 7**

# Mass enlistment shows diversity of Air Force Reserve

Story and photo by Jake Shaw  
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve recruiters held a mass enlistment ceremony here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. Oct. 5.

The ceremony kicked off the new recruiting year for Air Force Reserve Command's 482nd Fighter Wing. It was part of a nationwide effort in October to boost recruiting throughout the command.

Last year the wing recruiters achieved 124 percent of their goal and played a key role in the command exceeding its goal for the sixth year in a row.

For most in the crowd, the ceremony gave a sense of pride, but for the recruiters it was all about motivation.

"The mass enlistment ceremony is a great way to jump-start our recruiting year on a positive note," said Senior Master Sgt. Alex Vazquez, senior recruiter for the 482nd FW.

His wing commander, Col. Randy Falcon, swore six people in to the Air Force Reserve.

Several local civic leaders and elected officials attended the ceremony, which showed the diversity of the Air Force Reserve and the various reasons people join.

City of Homestead Councilwoman Amanda Garner said it was an honor to attend the ceremony and to see so many fresh, new faces joining the Air Force Reserve.

Among those signing up were a 30-something, prior-service Air Force captain who wants to get back into the military and work toward his retirement, a recent high school graduate who wants to take advantage of the educational benefits and others who are interested in travel and service on flexible terms.

For most of the enlistees, family members played a big part in deciding to join the Air Force Reserve. But one enlistee felt especially motivated.

"My family came here from Cuba, so I really appreciate the freedoms we have here in America. This is my way of serving the country that gave my family freedom," said Jennifer Kidson, who plans to become a medical technician.

The father of another enlistee was excited to see his son take the oath of enlistment.

"I was in the Air Force and I would do it all over again if I had the chance. I want my son to see the world and experience something different," said Eli Brandon, whose 18-year-old son, Adriel, plans to work in the aircraft maintenance field and use the GI Bill to pursue educational goals in the music field.

With the mass enlistment ceremony completed, the recruiters for the 482nd FW are on their way to reaching their annual goal again. This year's goal is tentatively set at 116 enlistments for the team from Homestead.



Col. Randy Falcon, 482nd Fighter Wing Commander, swears in six new Air Force reservists at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., during a mass enlistment ceremony Oct. 5, 2006. Joining the Air Force Reserve Command unit from left are: Jennifer Kidson, Chris Frank, Charles Moye, Robert Gibson-Pierre, Adriel Brandon and Michael Keane. All of them will begin serving in the 482nd FW in the near future.

# Precision critical for survival equipment specialists

Story and photos by Dan Galindo  
482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Something as small as a single stitch in fabric can determine whether a pilot flies and fights another day. For the specialists at the 482nd Maintenance Group's Survival Equipment Shop here at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. that's why paying attention to every minute detail is so very important.

"We have pilots' lives in our hands here," said Frank Saldarriaga, an Air Reserve Technician and NCO in charge of the Survival Equipment Shop as a Master Sergeant in the Air Force Reserve.

"Whether it's here or any other shop in the Air Force, you have to pay great attention to detail," he said.

"You really have to have your eyes on what you're doing," said Khalid Bensitel, an Air Reserve Technician and Senior Airman in the Air Force Reserve. "This is the last resort for a pilot. It's critical to get it right."

Saldarriaga and his team have much on which to concentrate. It's their job to inspect, test and repair parachutes, G-suits, survival vests,

flight suits, anti-exposure suits, one-person life rafts, and life preservers.

Each piece of equipment has its own demands for care. For example, parachutes have special stitching and even small explosives that require close attention, all of which the specialists can handle on their own.

"We do 100 percent of the inspections, packing and repairs here," said Bensitel. "We don't send anything



**Frank Saldarriaga, an Air Reserve Technician and Master Sergeant in the Air Force Reserve, prepares a one-person survival raft for a six-hour inflation test. Saldarriaga is a survival equipment specialist here.**

out (for servicing)."

The team also puts their skills in stitching to work fabricating custom covers to protect sensitive cockpit equipment, seats and air-intakes of the F-16's.

The intense focus on so many intricate pieces of gear is aimed at a specific outcome – precision.

"If a pilot needs to eject, everything must work when and how it's needed," said Saldarriaga. "Things happen in fractions of a second in those situations."

Since many of the fighter jets in the Air Force inventory have the same



**Khalid Bensitel, an Air Reserve Technician and Senior Airman in the Air Force Reserve, aligns 550-pound strength parachute cords as he prepares the chute for packing. Bensitel is a survival equipment specialist here.**

ejection systems, many survival equipment specialists can easily assist other units.

It's an aspect of the job that came in handy for the pilots and support crews of A-10 Warthogs of the 926th Fighter Wing at New Orleans Naval Air Station, La. after Hurricane Katrina last year. Both Sergeant Saldarriaga and Airman Bensitel volunteered to help, allowing 926th reservists to focus on the needs of their families and homes.

"Before all the jets could depart permanently, we had to inspect every piece of equipment so they could fly out of there," said Sergeant Saldarriaga. "It feels good to help out our fellow reservists like that."

But the rewards of the job are evident regardless of a big event.

"It makes me feel good that someday my work may save the life of a pilot," said Bensitel. "Things do happen, and it's my job to help make sure the pilot comes home."



**As each parachute is prepared for packing, every stitch is closely examined or replaced to make sure it functions without fail.**

# 482nd Maintenance Group recognizes top performers, dedicates crew chiefs

By Jake Shaw

## 482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 482nd Maintenance Group hosted an awards ceremony Oct. 15 at the base fitness center to recognize top maintenance performers.

The ceremony also included the dedication of fourteen Mako F-16 crew chiefs, who will be known from now on as the dedicated crew chiefs for their respective aircraft.

Col. T. Glenn Davis, 482nd Maintenance Group commander, began the ceremony with an overview of the Maintenance Group's new attitude and focus, telling the group they have come a long way in a short time.

"We're here today because the 482nd Maintenance Group will no longer crouch in a defensive position as an organization. We're now reclaiming the pride and prestige deserving of a unit that performs the most important job in the Air Force; fixing and flying combat aircraft," he said.

"I've traveled to many bases and I see that maintainers are often overlooked, but that era of being overlooked at this base ends now, because we have gone far too long without recognizing our people" he added.

Col. Davis also elaborated on the theme of the ceremony; "Turning the Beat Around."

"You have taken this unit from the lowest Mission Complete rate in Air Force Reserve Command to the highest, and you deployed overseas with near perfection in deployment, employment and redeployment," he said.

During the ceremony, pilots of the 93rd Fighter Squadron presented miniature tail flashes to 14 crew chiefs who became the 'owners' of the dedicated Mako F-16 they maintain.

Later Col. Davis invited 482nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randy Falcon to center stage to recognize the maintenance professionals of the year. Thirteen individuals received awards in the following categories: support professionals, maintenance professionals, civilian professional, support individual, outstanding work section, outstanding team, outstanding weapons load crew, dedicated crew chief, outstanding officer, first sergeant and finally the golden eagle award.

The golden eagle award was presented to Chief Master Sgt. Fred Hennagan, in part for his service "from the front lines of Balad Air Base, Iraq, to the cloakrooms of the

Chief's conferences."

Also of note, Master Sgt. Bob Michalak was named a dedicated crew chief for aircraft tail flash number Aircraft 86-0318, which is the 482nd Fighter Wing's flagship and is flown by the wing commander. Later in the ceremony Sgt. Michalak would be recognized again, this time as the outstanding dedicated crew chief of the year.

A quote from Col. Davis during the ceremony provided good guidance for all in attendance, "The strength of the team is the member and the strength of the member is the team."

*Turn to page 7 for the full list of winners and dedicated crew chiefs.*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

## The pilot's choice

482nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randy Falcon, left, and 93rd Fighter Squadron Commander Lt.Col. Jose Monteagudo, right, were on hand to congratulate Staff Sgt. Adam Cartwright with the 93rd FS Pilot's Choice Award Oct. 15. Pilots hand-picked Sergeant Cartwright for his "dedication, discipline and attention to detail" in support of the Mako pilots. Sergeant Cartwright was also recognized as the 2006 Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year during the 482nd Maintenance Group Awards earlier that day.

# Proud sponsors of the 93rd Fighter Squadron Makos

## F-16 Tail Number

A-318  
A-406  
A-265  
A-404  
A-337  
A-405  
A-264  
A-334  
A-402  
A-319  
A-259  
A-267  
A-380  
A-0053

## Dedicated crew chief

Master Sgt. Bob Michalak  
Master Sgt. Les Frasure  
Staff Sgt. Marcio Mattos  
Tech. Sgt. C.J. Heinbaugh  
Tech. Sgt. Chris Wilton  
Tech. Sgt. Adam Kosowsky  
Master Sgt. Brian Mahoney  
Master Sgt. Terry Rios  
Master Sgt. Wayne Ketter  
Tech Sgt. Phil Vargas  
Tech. Sgt. Juan Guerra  
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Thornton  
Staff Sgt. Cory Cain  
Tech. Sgt. James Dahne

## Individual and Team Awards

**2006 Airman Support Professional of the Year: Senior Airman Kristy M. Ayala-Rosado**

**2006 Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year: Staff Sgt. Adam Cartwright**

**2006 NCO Support Professional of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Alex Mion**

**2006 NCO Maintenance Professional of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Leslie Brandt**

**2006 Senior NCO Support Professional of the Year: Master Sgt. Michael Uzzell**

**2006 Senior NCO Maintenance Professional of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Katdo Robinson**

**2006 Outstanding Civilian of the Year: James Buzek**

**2006 Outstanding Contributor of the Year: Debbie Lippincott**

**2006 Outstanding Team of the Year: Propulsion Shop**

**2006 Outstanding Weapons Load Crew of the Year: Weapons Load Crew # 9**

**2006 Dedicated Crew Chief of the Year: Master Sgt. Bob Michalak**

**2006 Outstanding Officer of the Year: Capt. Gregory Behr**

**2006 First Sgt. of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Freddie Harris**

**2006 Golden Eagle Trophy Recipient: Chief Master Sgt. Fred Hennagan**

## **COMMAND, from pg. 3**

conduct operations to obtain our national interests.”

The cyber domain includes all the places an electron travels. The electron, which is part of the atom, can travel from one atom to the next. This concept is key to electronic communication and energy transmission.

An electron may travel from a cell phone to a cell tower, for instance. The path the electron takes, the shape of its path, the speed it travels, and the direction it travels are all critical to ensuring the cell phone works and that

a usable signal is received. As part of a signal, an electron can travel from a handheld computer to a reception tower, over a wire to a telephone, to a television through an antenna, from a radio transmitter to radio, and from computer to computer as part of a network.

The electron can also travel, as part of energy transmission, from a microwave oven to popcorn seeds to make them pop, from generators over a wire to a light bulb, and from an X-ray machine through bone to a detec-

tion plate to make an image for a doctor to review.

The places where the electron travels is the cyber domain, or cyberspace. And the ability to deliver a full range of cyber effects — to detect, deter, deceive, disrupt, defend, deny, and defeat any signal or electron transmission — is the essence of fighting in cyberspace.

*For the complete story on the proposed cyber command, go to [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and search “Cyber Command”.*

# New Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander: Do the right thing, the right way, every time!

By Jake Shaw

482nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col June M. Groff assumed command of the 482nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here at Homestead Air Reserve Base July 23.

Col. Groff takes over from Capt. Hugo Villalobos, who now works full time at U.S. Southern Command in Miami.

As squadron commander, Col. Groff is responsible for providing superior support to the 93rd Fighter Squadron's missions of day and night employment of conventional and precision munitions for the F-16 Makos. She also provides trained personnel and support equipment in required response times to deploy and support war plans and Expeditionary

See **NEW COMMANDER**, pg. 9



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Bucky Parrish

Lt. Col. June Groff, pictured with 482nd Maintenance Group Commander Col. T. Glenn Davis, comes to Homestead from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., where she was the commander of the 944th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

## Giving thanks not only a Christian principle

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Ayers

482nd Fighter Wing Chaplain Assistant

It seems the older you get the faster life moves. It's hard to believe we're already preparing for the holiday season. Inches of snow have already fallen in the North, and the cold spells are moving in and out of the Miami area. Soon it will be time to buy Christmas presents, dust off the draidle and get ready for Chanukah, and prepare for the many annual festivals of Islam.

There is one holiday that I did not mention, Thanksgiving. Historically, Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims in adoration to God for protecting them through their hardship and allowing them to prosper. In modern times and with the pluralism of religion, Thanksgiving is a time to stop and give thanks to our community and the people we are involved with, in

addition to giving thanks to God for getting us through another year. It allows us to take a breather from the acceleration of our lives. We eat a lot of food, watch some football, play some football, and spend time with family. In some houses it's one of maybe two times a year the oven is used for a meal as opposed to the microwave. There is just something about slowing down and relaxing.

For many people no matter what their religion, slowing down and relaxing means opportunity to catch up with family members. We maintain such a busy life. We have work, kids, significant others, friends, extra curricular activities, and no time for the valuable things in life. When I refer to valuable things, I am not addressing cars or houses, but things of priceless value, like family, and

unforgettable memories. Often times we replace priceless value with career goals or trying to get ahead.

When many people were younger, listening to funny stories about other family members was a highlight of any family gathering. I know I couldn't wait for the trips to grandpa's house to hear them, and I couldn't wait for my parents to tell stories, too. The great part was that they all acted like they couldn't wait to tell us their stories.

This year make Thanksgiving an opportunity to regain the priceless value of life...eat a lot of food, watch some football, but also make some memories that will last forever. Memories are not bound by religion or segregation. Tell a story, listen to a story, but no matter what, slow down and make a story of your own with your family and friends.



## VA announces 'Veterans Pride' initiative

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leaders of major veterans organizations joined Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson here today to launch an effort to “kindle a new spark of patriotism” by asking men and women who have served in the military to wear their medals on Veterans Day.

“We are announcing a ‘Veterans Pride Initiative’ to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served,” Mr. Nicholson said. “We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our

national security.”

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries who honor the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on April 25 each year, VA officials said. Mr. Nicholson said he hopes a U.S. tradition will ensue to emulate this pride in being a veteran and in honoring the nation’s veterans.

VA is offering information about the campaign at [www.va.gov/veteranspride](http://www.va.gov/veteranspride) where veterans also can obtain information about how to replace mislaid medals and learn how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service, from a Veterans Affairs news release)

## NEW COMMANDER, from pg. 8

Air Force taskings.

To be successful in the near future, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron must stay focused on fixing and flying safe jets while helping to recruit over 200 new personnel to support nine additional jets due to arrive at the base next year, said Col. Groff.

“We have been making great strides getting back to the basics in maintenance,” said Col. Groff.

And the proof is in the numbers.

According to Col. Groff, “Our wing has attained and maintained the highest Fully Mission Capable rate – not only in the Air Force Reserve – but Air Force wide among fighter units. This is a truly amazing feat that could not have been accomplished without the unbelievable hard work and dedication of the fine folks here at Homestead.”

Prior to her arrival at Homestead, Col. Groff was the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander for the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Col. Groff, originally from New Jersey, joined the Air National Guard in 1982, where she worked as an Airman First Class in computer

operations. She graduated from St. Francis University in Loretta, Pennsylvania the same year with a degree in International Information Management with a minor in Education and a minor in Computer Science. She then received a commission and earned her wings as a navigator on KC-135 Stratotankers. She also holds a Masters of Science in Aviation and a Masters in Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Col. Groff previously spent several years with the 301st Fighter Wing at Carswell Airfield, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas as a Maintenance Squadron commander, Logistics Readiness Squadron commander and many other positions.

As the boss, Col. Groff is focused on fixing, flying and fighting safely the best jets in the world, and that requires a dedicated group of maintainers.

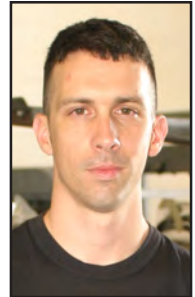
“My folks are concentrating on doing the right thing, the right way every time! I am honestly overwhelmed by the passion people here have for maintenance. I am proud to be part of the team,” she said.



## Mako Bites

### Why does Veterans Day represent to you?

It's about giving thanks to the men and women who work hard to uphold our freedom and way of life.



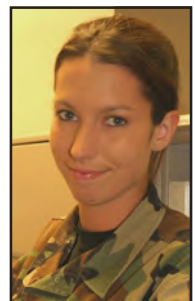
Staff Sgt. Joseph Vaughn  
Weapons Loader

It's to remember those who gave their lives in defense of our country, both during peacetime and times like now.



Staff Sgt. Aldo Aguiro  
Structural Repair Specialist

It's a holiday to commemorate all those who served in the past and the present.



Airman 1st Class Kinzie Horton  
93rd FS Admin Support Specialist

It's a day to remember those who died protecting us from outside invaders.



Tech. Sgt. Stephen Crandall  
Structural Repair Specialist

## Hate groups, gangs not acceptable to Air Force

Department of Defense and Air Force policies prohibit active participation in any activity that promotes the objectives of organizations and groups that attempt to illegally discriminate or otherwise deprive individuals of their civil rights. This could include participating in public demonstrations, fund raising, recruiting, organizing, leading or training in support of such organizations. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and search "hate groups".

## Some Airmen can carry over 'use or lose' leave

Airmen who were recalled from or unable to take annual leave this past year for reasons such as support for contingency operations may be allowed to accumulate more than the normal 60 days after the fiscal year ends. Special leave accrual carry over also applies to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members who performed full-time training or other full-time duties for 30 days or more. Additionally, Airmen who lost leave as a consequence of assignments in support of contingency operations as of Sept. 30, 2006, are authorized restoration of the leave they lost. Those Airmen who meet the criteria for having excess leave should contact their local military personnel flight customer service element

for additional guidance, such as eligibility to carry over leave beyond the following fiscal year. For more information and complete details on what leave amount may be carried over, read the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and search "use or lose leave".

## AF Reserve to operate with more reservists

The fiscal 2007 Defense Appropriations Act funds an end-strength of 74,900 reservists, which is 900 additional reservists from last year. The new legislation also approves 10,214 full-time air reserve technicians and 2,707 full-time active Guard and Reserve members. The defense bill funds a 2.2 percent across-the-board military pay raise for active and Reserve forces as requested in the president's budget earlier this year. For more information, read the AFRC News Service story at [www.afrc.af.mil](http://www.afrc.af.mil) and search "more reservists".

## AF Reserve changes officer promotion system

Air Force Reserve Command is changing its officer promotion system to meet future total force requirements. In one change, the command will combine Selected Reserve (Categories A and B) and Participating Individual Ready Reserve, or PIRR, (Category E) officers into a single promotion group. Under force shaping actions, the Air Force Reserve will shift some of its member authorizations from paid positions in the Selected Reserve to non-paid status in the PIRR. For more information, read the AFRC Print News story at [www.afrc.af.mil](http://www.afrc.af.mil) and search "officer promotion changes".

## Masters need SNCO academy for higher jobs

Master sergeants must now finish the Air Force Senior NCO Academy before they fill a senior or chief master sergeant position in the Air Force Reserve. Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, announced the policy in a Sept. 27 memo. Before master sergeants had to complete the top enlisted professional military education before they sewed on senior master sergeant stripes. However, they could fill a higher-graded position as long as they enrolled in the academy within six months of their duty effective date. The new policy still requires getting the academy done before promotion but gives added emphasis to the importance of enlisted PME. For more information, read the AFRC News Service story at [www.afrc.af.mil](http://www.afrc.af.mil) and search "masters NCO academy".

## AFRC postpones mandatory wear of patch

Air Force Reserve Command has postponed the mandatory wear of the AFRC patch on battle dress uniforms and flight suits until May 1, 2007. AFRC unit reservists were supposed to start wearing the patch last month (October), but command officials delayed it because of a lack of patches. AFRC officials still require members to wear the patches as they are issued. For more information, read the AFRC News Service story at [www.afrc.af.mil](http://www.afrc.af.mil) and search "patch postponed".



Photo by Ryan Ayers

## Birds beware!

482nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Randy Falcon provides the "shotgun start" to the annual Homestead / Florida City military affairs committee golf tournament at the Redlands Golf and Country Club Oct. 6. The committee treats Homestead reservists to golf and prizes each year at the tournament.

### Health Benefits Fair scheduled

Civilian Personnel is hosting the annual Federal Employees Health Benefits fair Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Newcomer Briefing Room, Rm. 131, of the Wing Headquarters building, bldg. 360. Various health care company representatives will be present to pass out brochures and answer your questions. Information on Flexible Spending Plans and the new vision and dental plans will also be available. Prior to the fair, interested employees are recommended to visit the Office of Personnel Management website at [www.opm.gov/insure/](http://www.opm.gov/insure/) for information on enrollment and plan options. For more information, contact Ms. Diane Herbert at (305) 224-7358 or [diane.herbert@homestead.af.mil](mailto:diane.herbert@homestead.af.mil).

### Join the club, win a Hummer

The two H3s are being given away to show Air Force Clubs' appreciation to its members. All new members who sign up for club membership during the annual membership drive from Sep. 1 through Nov. 31 are eligible to win one of the H3 Hummers. The second H3 will be given away to someone who became a member as of Aug. 31.

### Volunteer to make a difference

The Department of Labor Job Corps is seeking volunteers to encourage, tutor or mentor students through its new STARS program. STARS (Speakers, Tutors, Achievement, Retention, and Success) is a Job Corps initiative to increase student retention, student achievement, and program completion. Job Corps is the nation's largest residential educational and vocational training program for economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24. To volunteer or for more information, contact Bernard Krogh at (305) 258-7164 or by email at [bkrogh@wics.org](mailto:bkrogh@wics.org).

### Savings in bulk at SouthCom

The U.S. Southern Command and the Defense Commissary Agency are holding a case lot sale Nov 16 to 18 at the U.S. SouthCom Headquarters East end parking lot, located at 3511 NW 91st

Avenue in Miami. Active-duty members, as well as Reserve, National Guard, retirees and eligible family members possessing valid military ID cards are welcome. The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 16 and 17, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 18. Thursday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visa and Master cards, cash and checks will be accepted. Debit cards may not be used as payment due to the location.

### Celebrate Thanksgiving at club

Don't miss the Falcon's Nest Club Thanksgiving Buffet. The club will serve roast turkey, hand carved honey baked ham and roast beef, Seafood Newburg, salmon, cornbread stuffing, mashed and sweet potato casserole, pumpkin pie, green beans almondine, corn, cranberry sauce, salad bar, dessert bar, champagne and mimosas. The club member price is \$15.95, which includes guests of members ineligible for membership. Members' children ages six to twelve cost \$8.95. The non-member's price is \$18.95, which includes guests of the non-member. Non-member's children ages six to twelve cost \$10.95. All children five and under eat free. Please RSVP only. Call Sheree or Tarin to make reservations at (305) 224-7167 or (305) 224-6784. Serving times are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with seatings of 50 people every 30 minutes.

### Tickets on sale at Outdoor Rec

Miami Heat Tickets are now available for purchase. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of great savings for these blazing hot tickets. Theme park tickets for Sea World, Busch Gardens, Universal Studios, Island Adventure, and Disney are also available. Keep in mind that all your renting and purchasing needs can be taken care of at Outdoor Rec. Club Members receive a ten-percent discount on all rental items. Grills, sleeping gear, trailers, and both sports and water equipment are all available. For more information, please call (305) 224-7092.

### Information Assurance course accessible through AF Portal

AETC Advanced Distributed Learning System is now hosting the USAF Information Assurance Awareness 2007 course. Advanced Distributed Learning System (ADLS) is located on the AF Portal home page at <https://my.af.mil> under the Top Viewed: Training section. Select the Advanced Distributed Learning System link. If you have questions, contact the ADLS Help Desk at DSN 487-3274 or commercial at (210) 652-3274. Or you can send an e-mail by visiting the website and clicking on the Support Desk link on the left menu then choosing Support Desk on the main page.

### Members-only event at the club

The Falcon's Nest Club is holding a members-only event on Dec. 1 with free food and prizes. One significant other will be allowed in with a \$10 fee. The theme is All-American Night and is scheduled to be held on the Patio. No guests under 18 years of age please.



### *Diamond Tips*

**On being a successful communicator**

**"Educators take simple concepts and make them complicated; Communicators take complex concepts and make them simple."**

**- John C. Maxwell, author**

**Questions?  
Ask your First Sergeant**

# America Soars on Air Force Wings

By General T. Michael Moseley  
U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The United States of America depends on its Air Force to defend the population, deliver global effects and jointly accomplish national objectives to an extent unseen in the history of mankind.

In my 35 years of service, many things have changed. Yet, what has remained constant is the extraordinary dedication, courage, and skill of the men and women we call “Airmen” who deliver for the nation every minute of every day in air, on the surface, in space, and cyberspace.

I am often asked: What does the Air Force contribute? What does our national investment in air, space and cyberspace power bring to America? Let me share with you some observations of our Air Force that have inspired me since I was a new Second Lieutenant — fresh from commissioning at Texas A&M University — and continue to fill me with pride as the Eighteenth Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

I see Airmen, vigilant at their post, who provide first warning of threats world-wide through space, air and cyber systems that never sleep and never blink.

From satellites that provide early warning, to over-tasked unmanned aerial vehicles and surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, Airmen operate the world’s most advanced sensor network. They watch the globe — to include North Korean preparations for missile launches, Iranian nuclear programs, and the dangerous borders between warring nations. Airmen are America’s global eyes and ears, likely the first to tip off of an emerging threat to Americans and America’s interests

I see Airmen who provide the first response worldwide for natural disasters — on scene for rescue and

delivering humanitarian supplies (to include complete hospitals) that often mean the difference between life and death.

I see Airmen airborne, in the center of the worst storms and hurricanes in history, to track and provide the warning that is critical to save lives and protect citizens’ property.

I see Airmen airborne, fighting forest and range fires, delivering fire retardant liquid from C-130s — again to save lives and protect citizens’ property. From rescuing individuals in danger, to providing storm warning, to fighting fires, to delivering supplies across a global air bridge, Airmen are the real manifestation of American compassion and strength.

It has been my observation that Airmen do these tasks so well that people at risk expect an American response no matter how far or how adverse the conditions or how tough the task. It has also been my observation that these Airmen make all this look so easy that others believe it is easy - which, of course, it’s not.

I see Airmen who are often first to the fight through the attributes inherent in the exploitation of Air Power, engaging enemies across vast ranges on a truly global scale, striking targets or transporting themselves and their fellow Warriors to hot spots throughout the world. These Airmen then stand alongside them in the fight as a joint team, delivering military options, anywhere on Earth.

These Airmen fly bombers on a truly intercontinental scale, routinely striking targets at ranges unequaled in the history of warfare, with peerless precision, speed, and lethality, while simultaneously holding other targets at risk, thereby deterring and dissuading adverse actions.

Other Airmen fly the giant airlift and refueling aircraft, also on a truly intercontinental scale, daily delivering humanitarian relief supplies, other war

fighters, cargo, and the means to conduct theater war fighting on the scale required in this long war on terrorism. In fact, every 90 seconds, somewhere on the surface of the Earth, these Airmen take to the air — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, good weather or foul in defense of this country.

I see Airmen slip into hollow cockpits of fighter aircraft and, to paraphrase James Salter’s “Gods of Tin,” plug themselves into the machine. As these Airmen prepare themselves for combat, the canopy grinds shut and seals them off. Their oxygen, their very breath, is carried with them into the chilled vacuum in a steel bottle. Their only voice is the radio. They’re as isolated as a deep-sea diver.

For these warriors — operating in their unique domain — time and space are compressed. To them, geographical expanses are reduced and geographical barriers are bypassed by the hurtling aircraft - again exploiting the inherent benefits of the ultimate high ground and vantage of operating within this unique domain.

In combat, these Airmen live or die alone. They’re certainly accompanied by others, flying and fighting alongside — but, really, they are alone in these fighter aircraft. They’re fighting the laws of physics, as well as our increasingly lethal enemies. And the connection to technology is real because first they become part of the aircraft and then the aircraft becomes a part of them, all in defense of this Nation.

I see Airmen succeed throughout the world, mirroring America’s diversity and its blend of capabilities, devotion, and valor that unite us across cultures and national boundaries.

*For the complete article by Gen. Moseley, go to Air Force Link at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) and search “Air Force Wings”.*