

Will this year's fire season smoke out your summer plans? See 5

FRONT RANGE FLYER



Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 24, No. 2

Summer 2009



See how a 302nd member overcame the odds in Mexico

Flip over to 11



How bad will they burn?

+ Here comes the UCI!

See our in-depth guide on 8

302ND AIRLIFT WING
U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, COLO.

Wildland firefighting:

Why reservists have the unique experience of protecting Americans right at home

by Senior Airman Stephen Collier
Front Range Flyer editor

(Editor's note: The following commentary from the Front Range Flyer editor highlights the critical mission of MAFFS performed by the 302nd AW.)

As members of the Air Force Reserve, we are unique. We are unique in that we are volunteers

defense of American lives and property on our soil -- a mission our wing doesn't take lightly.

Take Maj. Michael Savage for instance. An instructor pilot in our 731st Airlift Squadron, he once said Military Airborne Firefighting System missions are "a very challenging mission that makes you feel good, like you've really made a difference at the end of the day ... this is my favorite mission for many reasons. It gives us the opportunity to directly support our own people in our own backyard." That about sums up what it means to know your actions may have saved a house, a forest, a town ... or even a life.

This summer marks another potentially-explosive fire season, and the experts don't see it becoming any less deadly from years prior. Those experts, from Colorado to California, talked with your *Front Range Flyer* staff on the calculated dangers each state may face from dryer seasons, lower snow falls and large

amounts of dead foliage sprinkled throughout densely-populated forests. These, of course, are all breeding grounds for wildland fires. Read more from the experts as you turn to page five. There, your Public Affairs office has an in-depth report on the upcoming wildland fire season and how you might be affected by it.

Another summer comes and we prepare once more to take the fight to one of our country's enemies: fires. With the MAFFS annual certification of May 6 behind us, we are ready and waiting for the call to support wildland firefighting. We hope fire conditions will not get to the level where we are needed, but it's critical to prepare for the worst, while hoping for the best. After all, our fellow citizens are counting on us.

through and through. Many Reserve members hold full-time civilian jobs, are leaders of organizations and have families, making our members, "twice the citizen." We don't receive a paycheck on the 1st and 15th from the government, compensating our military service to our nation for 365 days a year, but yet we are trained and ready to respond to the needs of our nation just as our active duty counterparts.

As volunteers, we chose the AF Reserve for a variety of reasons, but those reasons tend to boil down to one, undeniable fact: even though we are part-time Airmen, we are full-time protectors of America. The 302nd Airlift Wing's unique mission of wildland firefighting gives us the chance many in the armed services may never experience: using their expertise to support the civil



FRONT RANGE FLYER

Vol. 24, No. 2 // SUMMER EDITION

Editorial Staff

Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing
COL. JAY PITTMAN

Chief, Public Affairs
ANN SKARBAN

Officers

MAJ. KALLECE QUINN
CAPT. JODY RITCHIE
CAPT. HEATHER GARRETT

Editor

SENIOR AIRMAN
STEPHEN COLLIER

Staff

TECH. SGT. DAVID MORTON
TECH. SGT. DANIEL BUTTERFIELD
SENIOR AIRMAN MORANDA MATHIEU
TINA LLOYD

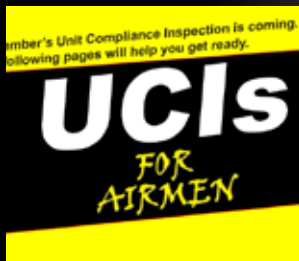
Contact Us

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
450 W. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 138
Peterson AFB, CO 80914
Tel: (719) 556-4117
Fax: (719) 556-4214
Email: 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Front Range Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. All photographs are official Air Force Reserve photos unless otherwise indicated.



It's a mission the wing prepares for every year. See how 'MAFFS' is crucial to America's wildland firefighting mission. See 5



The Unit Compliance Inspection is coming. Are you ready? See 8



Dead how a life support technician in the 302nd Operations Group defied the odds of desert racing in Mexico to place with top honors. See 11



TWO UTA

THE CLOCK IS TICKING: UCI JUST DAYS AWAY!



Col. Jay Pittman

302nd Airlift Wing commander

This is it. We are only one Unit Training Assembly away from our upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection.

The first weekend in August will be the last UTA until the wing's UCI which will take place Sept. 18-20.

At this point, we should be putting the finishing touches on our programs and processes and ensuring we are in full compliance with Air Force Instructions in both common core areas such as safety and administration, as well as within our functional areas.

There is time to make a difference and bring all areas up to full-strength.

We need to work smart, and use the knowledge gained from previous wing UCI findings and learn from other unit's findings as well. It's everyone's responsibility to ensure we do not contribute to repeat write ups. It is of great importance you communicate areas of concern with your supervisors. Now is the time to get help where needed and to take action to make corrections.

Please take a few moments to review the UCI tips within this edition of the *Front Range Flyer*. They will provide a helpful refresher on key items that will likely come into play during the UCI. In addition to that information, look sharp -- ensure your uniform and dress and appearance sets the example. Be sharp, be positive and be a team player -- attitude is everything.

While we work with the UCI in the forefront, we also continue our efforts to support the wing's missions and must continue to maintain our individual readiness. The Air Force's Fit to Fight program is one area that continues to receive great emphasis throughout the Air Force Reserve and here at the 302nd AW. It is the responsibility of each and everyone of us to maintain our personal fitness and readiness. To help you, the wing's services flight has started UTA fitness activities including a Sunday morning run with leadership program. Check with your unit to learn more and plan to participate.

This is a great wing. Each individual's contributions make an important and significant difference. Through our programs and processes, and with our exceptional team members, let's be sure to show the Air Force Reserve Command UCI inspectors our high level of dedication and our wing's many accomplishments.

Finally, just before the UCI, the wing will hold its annual "Herc Adventure Tour of Duty" and Family Day. I hope you will bring your family and significant others out to attend on Saturday of the August UTA. You will find more information inside this edition of the *Front Range Flyer*.

As we continue to answer our nation's call, I truly feel Family Day is a great opportunity to share what you do here at the 302nd AW with your family and for the unit to show its appreciation to those who support your participation in the Air Force Reserve. But most of all, it's a day to enjoy and have fun!

Thank you for all you do and your contributions to our important missions -- it is appreciated.

Records now online

All members are encouraged to review their personnel records before Nov. 30 as paper copies are scheduled to be destroyed. Paper personnel records for 302nd Airlift Wing members were recently converted to electronic files. Members will now be able to access their records via the Automated Records Management System, or ARMS, through the Personnel Records Display Application. To access those records, members should log on to the Air Force Portal, use the 'Career Links' pull down menu and click on 'PRDA.' Members having difficulty accessing PRDA can call the 302nd Military Personnel Flight at (719) 556-7976 or e-mail 302msf.dpmsc@peterson.af.mil. Members that find discrepancies with their electronic records in ARMS/PRDA can send an e-mail to arpc.dpq@arpc.denver.af.mil.

GTC overhaul

New guidance dated June 12 was issued by Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd Airlift Wing commander, on Government Travel Card delinquencies. Cardholders are reminded it's their responsibility to ensure their GTC balance is paid and to understand the importance of following up with travel vouchers filed with the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. See the following for additional details:

- **For 30 day delinquencies:** The cardholder's supervisor will speak with the cardholder to determine why the account has not been paid. Cardholders with a travel voucher concern must work with their supervisor and the finance office to resolve the discrepancy.
- **For 60 day delinquencies:** The agency program coordinator, or APC, will send a memorandum to the cardholder's supervisor. The cardholder is expected to sign and return the letter to the APC. The cardholder will also receive a letter of counseling documenting the delinquency.
- **For 90 day and beyond delinquencies:** The APC will forward a memorandum to the cardholder's second-level supervisor with administrative action ranging from a letter of admonishment to discharge from service.



New uniform changes



Air Force officials with the 98th Uniform Board announced June 10 updates to Air Force Instruction 36-2903 (Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel). Some changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2010, while some are effective immediately. Immediate changes include:

- **Tuck in boot lace:** Boot laces for any combination uniform must be tucked into the boot. Excess boot laces may be wrapped around the boot and tucked in there after. Boot laces are not to be presented in a 'bowtie' fashion.
- **No caps attached to trousers:** For members in BDUs, organizational caps are no longer authorized to be attached to the BDU trouser.

NOTE: The uniform board released additional guidance on tucking ABU and BDU trousers into boots. This ruling has been until Oct. 1, 2010.

'9/11' GI Bill available Aug. 1

Members who have served since Sept. 10, 2001, may be eligible for educational benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. Beginning May 1, the Department of Veteran's Affairs began accepting applications for use of the benefits. Members wishing to apply for these benefits can access the electronic form at: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>. For more information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, visit www.gibill.va.gov.

Have issues with your military and travel pay?

Call the 302nd Airlift Wing's finance office at their new number:
(719) 556-7718

39th Aerial Port Squadron scores big at 22nd Air Force 'round up'



Courtesy photo

Members of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron pose after taking the honors in two categories during the 2009, 22nd Air Force Aerial Port Roundup at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. The March 13-15 event resulted in the 39th APS team to place first in the Aerial Port Trivia category and first in the running portion of the Fit-to-Fight competition.

By Ann Skarban
Front Range Flyer

The 39th Aerial Port Squadron's five-member round up team placed first in the Aerial Port Trivia event and were among the top three teams in two of the six events in the 22nd Air Force Aerial Port competition March 12-15 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base near Atlanta.

Air Transportation Specialists Master Sgt. Dan Douglas, Staff Sgts. Justin Baker, Lynda Fauland and Ryan Spawr as well as Senior Airman Bryce Griffin made up the 39th APS team.

The story continues online at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



Smoke on the horizon?

302nd Airlift Wing readies, works with local, state, federal agencies to prepare for 2009 wildland fire season

The predictions are in for the 2009 wildland fire season and the experts have revealed what many in the 302nd Airlift Wing have guessed: this year's fire season may not be any easier to combat.

Work has been on-going for months to prepare the four Air Force Military Airborne Firefighting System airlift wings for another battle. During that time, the 302nd AW and its Air National Guard counterparts conducted annual certification missions in concert with the U.S. Forest Service. The annual certification is integral to upgrading trainees, testing both ground and flight crews as well as certifying the Forest Service's, or state agency's, lead aircraft. That preparation is crucial in the event

aircrews and maintainers are called upon to defend American citizens and their property from the threat of deadly fire again this year. And from all indications, Reservists should be ready for the call.

"We start at the beginning of the season, reconfirming with each person, ensuring they are committed to the program," said Lt. Col. David Condit, 302nd AW chief of safety and MAFFS program coordinator for the Air Force Reserve. "Our members' availability and participation is expected. We ask them to make themselves available through the summer if they are needed. Also throughout the season we monitor fire conditions throughout the U.S. As conditions worsen, we identify individuals for availability for potential call up."

The experience of the 2008 activation to California showed Air Force leadership the 302nd AW can take a leadership role

See **MAFFS, 6**

by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton and
Senior Airman Stephen Collier

How it works: Receiving a MAFFS tasking

When all civilian firefighting aerial resources have been exhausted, it's time to call in MAFFS. See how civilians request the Air Force Reserve's help:



1. In Boise, Idaho, the National Interagency Fire Center evaluates the need for additional manning. When military support is needed, they call the Pentagon.



2. The DoD liaison office receives the request, and processes it through U.S. Northern Command for civil support.



3. USNORTHCOM processes the Air Force portion of the mission through Air Force North, USNORTHCOM's Air Force component.



4. After requests flow through various major commands and numbered air forces, the 302nd Airlift Wing is ordered to support wildland firefighting.

MAFFS, from 5 in MAFFS. That fact has moved MAFFS to one of the wing's key missions.

Those members supporting MAFFS will be expected to perform long work days to receive, load and launch the C-130 Hercules. Because of the daunting workload placed on aircrews and maintainers alike, assigning "the best of the best" to the MAFFS mission is necessary.

Wildland fire season typically runs from May through November, but it's not uncommon for the distant, austere blazes to arrive early in the winter or spring months. This year has been no exception as a number of fires have already sprouted up throughout the country.

"We've already seen significant fire activity this year," said Colonel Condit. "Some areas of the country have experienced a very dry winter to include Texas and Northern California. It is very difficult to predict fire activity, but all forecasts so far indicate fire activity to be above average. Things look green now, but a few hot days can turn it all brown and ready to ignite."

One example of a local fire which scorched more than 6,000 acres happened March 5 at Ft. Carson. Explosives training in the spring there led to the fire which grew rapidly, feeding off dry brush. The fire's speed and intensity led Colorado state officials to call in civilian air tankers to help battle the blaze. Glenn Bartter, assistant center manager for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center, said "having aircraft staged is out of the ordinary for this time of year.

"Usually we don't staff air tankers or helicopters in the area until May," Mr. Bartter said during an interview with the local Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper. "Extreme conditions required us to move some resources into Colorado."

Colorado prepares

Each state has worked to ramp up their fire awareness and preparation activities earlier than normal. In Colorado alone, 420 fire departments in Colorado have registered their wildland firefighting resources with the state's forest service. That registration of information is entered into a national Resource Ordering and Statusing System database. This information can be crucial to local and regional firefighting coordinators if multiple fires are affecting a state at once, especially near population centers.

The state also boasts an assortment of firefighting resources. The Colorado State Forest Service maintains 16 wildland firefighting engines, loans 140 to fire departments, contracts and manages three single-engine air tankers and supports three 20-person Department of Corrections inmate crews for fire support. This is the standard for what is being seen as "an increased potential for fire activity," according to CSFS's Richard Homann.

The Colorado State Forest Service mission, according to Mr. Homann, is to provide for the

THE BOTTOMLINE

The 302nd Airlift Wing and MAFFS:

The 302nd AW works in concert with several government entities, spanning local, state and federal agencies, as well as other military organizations. MAFFS units include three Air National Guard wings as well as the 302nd AW.

stewardship of forest resources and to reduce related risks to life, property and the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. CSFS is tasked as the lead state agency for specific emergency support function as part of the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

To help battle any blazes, Mr. Homann, a 12-year veteran of CSFS, said it's critical for local, state and federal authorities to work closely and methodically to quell fires that flare up.

"In terms of public and firefighter safety, it's very critical to work together," he said. "When wildfire activity and the associated threat to life and property exceed the response capacity of the interagency fire community, military resources are accessed through either federal or state channels. Military resources are called in when there is, and has been, extreme fire activity or many fires occurring over an extended length of time."

Feds watch fires closely

As states like Colorado prepare their own resources to take on fires in their communities, they are also heavily reliant upon the U.S.'s interlaced and high-tech resources that monitor fire conditions throughout the country.

One of those agencies, the USFS's Predictive Services, is working to support multiple federal and state agencies with the most accurate and detailed fire predictions available. Predictive Services is a national interagency program with a staff of meteorologists, intelligence specialists and fire analysts located throughout the country. The program's mission is simple: provide information, products and services to assist with wildland fire and resource decision making. That information gathering has led to disturbing fire predictions: portions of north and central Washington, western California and the western Great Lakes region are suffering from a drier-than-normal season, leading to an increased risk of wildland fire. Later in the summer, the organization also anticipates a significant fire potential across northern California.

Thomas Wordell, a 26-year analyst with the Predictive Services branch, sees nationally a significant fire potential.

"Our staff at the National Interagency Fire Center routinely briefs the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group, which consists of fire directors from various agencies as well as a permanent military liaison," Mr. Wordell said. "We work to keep the Department of Defense informed of the current wildland fire situation if the fire situation escalates to a point where a request for military assets may be required."

Colonel Condit added how strong the relationship is between the 302nd AW and federal and state organizations.

"Many of these relationships have been formalized and strengthened due to significant increase in

political and public interest in the (MAFFS) program," the colonel said. "We also have fully integrated with the military command structure to ensure proper oversight and support."

U.S. Northern Command

When a wildland forest fire erupts, the first reaction may be to throw every available firefighter and aircraft at the blaze to combat and extinguish any and all possible threats to people and property.

This is not how the states or the federal government fights fires, though. A structured and planned response to most effectively combat wildland fires has been put in place through U.S. Northern Command. Many agencies, from the small town fire department to USNORTHCOM, are in the firefighting chain of command. Somewhere in between lays the men and women of the 302nd AW.

When a major wildland fire occurs, the affected state will work to contain the out-of-control blaze using its own resources.

"That is the preferred method; to exhaust all of that capability first and then bring in additional forces from the DoD if necessary," said Michael Kucharek, USNORTHCOM public affairs operations division chief. "California typically has their own resources along with the National Interagency Fire Center to bring some kind of mitigation effort to bear when the fires kick up."

Once a state runs out of resources, or looks to supplement resources, surrounding states or DoD assets may be called in to assist.

"When that happens, that is a support to civil authorities-type of civil mission," said Mr. Kucharek. "The 302nd AW, for instance, would be tapped through an air tasking order through an Air Expeditionary Group established by U.S. Northern Command in support of the National Interagency Fire Center."

Once the DoD is tapped for assistance, the AEG, formed by USNORTHCOM's Air Force component at Air Force North, cooperates with the current forces to do what is needed to

Read more about this story at

www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



September's Unit Compliance Inspection is coming.
The following pages will help you get ready.

UCI

FOR AIRMEN

by Maj. Kallece Quinn
and Capt. Jody Ritchie

“We have to get ready for the UCI.”

It's a wing priority we've all heard about; but what exactly is the UCI and how does a section “get ready” for the Sept. 16-21 event?

The Unit Compliance Inspection is just what it sounds like – an inspection to ensure units are in compliance with Air Force Instructions. In other words, are you doing what you are supposed to be doing?

“It's really normal business,” said Master Sgt. Darin Green, 302nd Services Flight unit deployment manager. “You just have to organize the data

to make sure you know where to get it when the inspectors ask a question.”

With an understanding of what the UCI is, the natural follow-up question is how does one prepare for the inspection? Fortunately, there are several tools available to help sections prepare.

Section chiefs should start with Attachment 6 of the Air Force Reserve Command supplement to Air Force Instruction 90-201 (<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>



The Unit Compliance Inspection can be confusing. To help guide you through this UCI article, look for the icons below. They'll help you navigate through critical information you need to ensure each and every Airman of the 302nd Airlift Wing guides the unit to a full, passing grade:



Use this to hone in on helpful hints



Skull and bones mean beware of these trouble spots



You'll want to take these items to heart as good ideas





**Check it once, check it twice
... make sure your UCI
checklists are complete!**



Tips to get you ready

The following resources can help you prepare for the Unit Compliance Inspection:

- AFI 90-201, AFRC Supplement, Attachment 6
- MICT Checklists
- 302nd AW's 2004 UCI Report
- UCI reports of other units (403rd Wing)

shared/media/epubs/AFI90-201_AFRCSUP_I.pdf) which provides a list of areas that will be inspected.

Additionally, the Management Internal Control Toolset on ReserveNet has self-inspection checklists providing more details on some subject areas.

“Since MICT is fairly new, everyone should look at the self-inspection checklists they used to run and make sure the MICT checklists cover the material,” said Lt. Col. Melinda Clearwater, 302nd Airlift Wing program manager.

Two more resources available to sections are the 302nd AW's previous UCI report and reports from similar units that have recently completed a UCI.

“All commanders should ensure previous write-ups are corrected and take the opportunity to learn from other unit inspections,” said Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander. “While we need to learn from previous mistakes, don't miss the opportunity to capitalize on strengths identified in those inspections.”

“While we need to learn from previous mistakes, don't miss the opportunity to capitalize on strengths identified in previous inspections.”

- Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

General's Web site, to include the 302nd AW's 2004 UCI report. Review of the 403rd Wing's recently-completed UCI report is recom-



mended. Contact your UCI representative for more information.

Focusing on primary responsibilities is natural, but the common core responsibilities cannot be overlooked. Topics such as safety and government travel cards can be inspected in any office.

“Don't forget to prepare for the common core inspections as well,” added Colonel Clearwater, “those checklists are available on MICT.”

How does a section get ready for the UCI? Utilizing the tools available and organizing the information will prepare any section for the inspectors.

For numerous months we've all

See UCI, 10

UCI, from 9

UCI readiness and you

heard the UCI is coming and our wing needs to be ready. But what does being ready mean to us as individuals?

First, we need to remember the UCI is an opportunity to demonstrate our excellence and mission capability. Some may have asked "Why do we have to do these inspections when they take up so much time and seem to take folks away from their primary duties?" Not only are these inspections required by law, they focus on areas and special interest items spelled out in Air Force Instruction 90-201. These inspections also aid us to sharpen our training programs and practices to ensure we're ready to execute our mission by testing our mission capability.

Secondly, don't underestimate the importance of first impressions. Inspectors are not only running checklists but they are also evaluating how we present ourselves. If you have a pair of dirty boots or a stained uniform, leave it at home in September.

Ask yourself: Is your uniform worn correctly and with pride? Are inspectors, co-workers and commanders treated with professionalism and re-



spect? Are you open to advice on mission and training improvements? Standards will be evaluated throughout the UCI and this "inspection" covers customs and courtesies, appearance and professionalism. Thus, looking sharp and acting professional will always help make a good first impression; it will go a long way in showing the inspector team our outstanding people and mission capabilities.



Lastly, understanding your job and how you fit into the wing will help inspectors get a realistic and impressive snapshot of our unit. Be confident in your work, be proud of how you do your job, and show them your mission.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Timeline for the September UCI:

- Sept. 16 (morning) - UCI inbrief at base theater; attendance is open
- Sept. 16 (afternoon) - Inspection begins
- Sept. 20 (afternoon) - Executive outbrief
- Sept. 21 (morning) - Formal outbrief for commanders, superior performers.



Did you know?

Inspectors won't be looking only at your primary job. Common core programs will also be inspected at random, including:

- ✓ Unit Deployment Responsibilities
- ✓ Status of Resources and Training System
- ✓ Fitness Program
- ✓ Time and Attendance
- ✓ Operational Risk Management
- ✓ Operational Security
- ✓ Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
- ✓ Government Travel Card Program
- ✓ Mishap Reporting



Brought to you by the 302nd Airlift Wing program management office



Got a question? Contact your UCI representative



Have a question about the UCI?
Contact your unit
representative for the answer!

302nd Airlift Wing staff agencies

Lt. Col. Melinda Clearwater
Maj. Alan Flolo

302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Maj. John Arendale
Senior Master Sgt Shannon Snare

302nd Mission Support Group

Lt. Col. Michael Smith

39th Aerial Port Squadron

Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Sutton

302nd Civil Engineer Squadron

1st Lt. Brian Willie
Chief Master Sgt. Sally Arnold

302nd Communications Flight

Master Sgt. Robbie Engevold
Ms. Kelli Wolf

302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Maj. Kristin Simpson

302nd Mission Support Flight

Maj. Joe Colunga
Maj. Kristiana Gerdes

302nd Security Forces Squadron

Master Sgt. Elroy Cormier
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Thomas

302nd Services Flight

Maj. Kandace Steinbrink
Senior Master Sgt. Terry Brassard

302nd Maintenance Group

Master Sgt. Anthony Zeigner

302nd Operations Group

2nd Lt. Tanas Mello-Patten

34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Lt. Col. Jonathan Micke

302nd Operations Support Flight

Maj. Christopher Anderson

731st Airlift Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Bell

Life support tech accomplishes racing dream in Mexican desert

by Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton

One dream born out of tragedy, another raised in the sands of Kuwait both came to realization for a U.S. Army veteran and a 302nd Airlift Wing Air Force Reservist March 13-15 in the deserts of San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico.

The 23rd Annual TECATE SCORE San Felipe 250 all-terrain vehicle motor race was something Tech. Sgt. Brent Renholm, 302nd Operations Group life support technician and former Army Spc. 4th Class Sam Fuson had been working toward ever since the two played flag football together in 2002.

They finished the 232.4 mile course 10th in their race classification which, by many standards in all-terrain racing, is almost unheard of for racers competing for the first time. All-together, 263 racers started the event with 181 finishing.

Though their objective was to compete and finish the event where trophy trucks, motorcycles and ATVs all competed on the same race course, their motives and desires for entering the event were quite different.

Mr. Fuson began his love affair with motor sports and auto racing at an early age growing up and later dreaming of racing opportunities while serving his country in Kuwait after Desert Storm. On the other hand, Sergeant Renholm wanted to compete as part of a tribute to a fallen friend who had fought a courageous fight against an inoperable form of brain cancer.

Sergeant Renholm met Jeremy Davis while serving on active duty from 1996-2000. The two were inseparable, like brothers, highly competitive in anything they did together.

“It was hard to see him go through [the brain cancer],” said the technical sergeant. “I wanted to do something in memory of his name and to fight a battle for him. His family meant a lot to me.”

“We named our youngest son after him,” added Caryn Renholm, who supported Brent from the time he and Mr. Fuson decided to focus on competing in the race.

Armed with encouragement from their wives, the racers went about the business of securing what few sponsors they could gather in a limited



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Brent Renholm.

The story continues online at
www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



RESERVE COMMAND

CITIZEN AIRMAN

PROFILE



NAME: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Belk
UNIT: 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
JOB: C-130H3 aircraft crew chief
HOMETOWN: Denver

TO 1C-130(K)H-1CL-1

FOREWORD

When did you enter the military? I came into the military in 2001 as active duty, and I've been with the 302nd Airlift Wing since May 2008.

What's your civilian job? At this time, I don't have a civilian job. I'm on orders at Peterson doing medical evacuation mission support.

How has joining the AF Reserve impacted your life? It's impacted me positively. It's allowed me to get back to Colorado where I'm from. Being all over (the world) on active duty, I decided to come back. The 302nd is a great home. There's a lot of good people; it's a great place to work.

What type of hobbies do you have? I like to snowboard in the winter and in the summer I like riding my bike ... I'm a Harley guy. I like hanging out with my family and my eight-month-old daughter. I play softball on base and I like to watch football.

What's your favorite music and movie? Any type of war movie is good ... 'We Were Soldiers' ... movies like that. As far as music, I can range anywhere from alternative to country.

If you could tell someone on the street one thing about what you do, what would it be? If you get a chance, join up, because it will change your life.

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
450 W. Hamilton Ave, Suite 171
Peterson AFB, CO 80914-2313

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX
ARIZONA
Permit No. 1662

For the Family of:



Photo courtesy/Matt Indent

Need News?

Visit us on the Web at:
www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

