

Read how your fellow Reservists manage their 'Triad' ... See 6



FRONT  RANGE
FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally
Vol. 25, No. 2 Summer 2010



Check out the
results from our
readership survey



See 8

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

UNITED STATES

FRONT

\\ CENTER //

FRONT RANGE FLYER

Vol. 25, No. 2 // SUMMER EDITION

302ND AIRLIFT WING

INSIDE THE FLYER

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On Sunday afternoon of the June UTA units within the Wing took time away from regular training activities to call attention to the recent rise in Air Force suicides, the tragic loss of Airmen to private motor vehicle accidents and to reintroduce the Wingman concept. Even though the stand down has ended, I encourage every member of the 302nd Airlift Wing to continue thinking about the topics discussed and personally take on the responsibilities of being a Wingman; look out for others, be dependable, accountable, resourceful, responsible and committed. The Wingman concept is more than an event; it's a culture of taking care of one another every day. Please take these concepts beyond the Wing and Peterson Air Force Base and share them with your families and friends – especially



Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

during the 101 Critical Days of Summer and during this Year of the Air Force Family. Taking care of our families has been a priority for the Air Force during 2010. This year has been recognized by the Air Force as the Year of the Air Force Family. In the Air Force Reserve, a new program is being offered to assist our deployers and their families. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program which includes pre- and post-deployment events is now available to members of the 302nd. The Wing recently took part in two post-deployment "YRRP" events in Vail, Colo., by partnering with the Colorado

National Guard's post-deployment programs. I have personally attended the recent YRRPs and from them have discovered additional support and benefits available to deployers and their families. YRRP is truly a great program for Air Force Reserve deployers and a great experience for the entire family. Our Airman and Family Readiness Office can provide more information on YRRP.

We can get so busy in our lives that it's easy to forget or fall behind in taking care of ourselves and our families. Being a Wingman and taking part in programs such as YRRP can make a significant and positive difference in your life, the lives of those closest to you and your Reserve career.

TURN THE PAGE >>



The dining facility remains closed until October. Get a run down of your options until then. See 4



Reservists and their families experienced the Rockies compliments of the YRRP program. Read more on 8



Be inspired by this senior Airman's story of finding her way, with a little help from the wing's HRDC organization. See 11

Editorial Staff

Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing

COL. JAY PITTMAN

Chief, Public Affairs

ANN SKARBAN

Officers

MAJ. KALLECE QUINN
CAPT. JODY RITCHIE

Editor

STAFF SGT.
STEPHEN COLLIER

Staff

TECH. SGT. DANIEL BUTTERFIELD
STAFF SGT. JENNI DEYLIUS
SENIOR AIRMAN
MORANDA MATHIEU
ALEXIE GIRTIN
REBEKAH WILLIAMSON

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

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MAINTAINING, BALANCING YOUR 'RESERVE TRIAD'



Col. James Van Housen

302nd Maintenance Group commander

302ND AIRLIFT WING

COMMENTARY

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How do you do it? How do you balance your family, civilian job, Reserve career and school priorities?

It's not always easy and there are often tough decisions to make. My previous assignment was as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee. My family and my civilian job were in Illinois while my Air Force Reserve position was in Oklahoma. Juggling the three of them was difficult. As an IMA, I found the only way to stay current was to put in extra time. But that meant more time away from my family and civilian job.

Deciding between different priorities in our lives involves sacrifices, compromises and a lot of understanding. One of the best ways to make it easier is to involve your family and employers,

both civilian and Reserve, in the discussion about how best to

prioritize. Be open with everyone about all your commitments and be flexible. Also, discuss your priorities. Don't expect today's priorities to be

the same as tomorrows. You'll have to keep discussing it with your family and supervisors over time. An open discussion helps create understanding and support.

But the burden of communication doesn't lie solely with you. The Air Force and the AF Reserve both recognize the importance of family and your civilian career. One of the Air Force's five priorities is **Develop and care for Airmen and their families**. The Air Force Reserve supports this through one of four priorities: **Preserve the Viability of the Reserve Triad**. The "Reserve Triad" is made up of you the Reservist, your family and your full-time civilian employer or school.

One of the biggest ways the AF Reserve wants to preserve this Triad is to foster communications with our Reservists, their families and their employers. Your Reserve supervisor should be providing you with their

expectations of you, as well as helping you develop a series of goals for job and career progression.

We need to educate your families

so they have an idea of what you do when you are on Reserve duty. To assist in this education, family members are invited to the Wing's annual Family Day event on Aug. 7. Family members will get the chance to see what you do in your Reserve job. It also allows them to interact with other Reservists and family members.

We must also keep your civilian employers up to date with current and upcoming requirements that may require your participation. To help your employer develop a better understanding of our mission, the Wing sponsors an annual Employer Appreciation Day, this year being held on July 9. If you didn't get a chance to nominate your employer for this up close look at our wing, I encourage you to take the time next year and invite them out. ESGR, the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve organization, serves as a liaison between the Reservist and their employer to help explain the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or "USERRA," which contains the rights and responsibilities of both the Reservist and the civilian employer, especially during times of deployments.

The bottom line is we all have a responsibility to help you find the proper balance between your family, your civilian career or education and your Reserve career.

"We all have a responsibility to help you find the proper balance between your family, your civilian career or education and your Reserve career."

Dining facility closes until fall

Peterson's Aragon Dining Facility will be closed April 1 through Oct. 30 for renovations. Reservists must use the Peterson Club as the primary dining facility for Unit Training Assemblies. Enlisted Reservists should ensure the following rules are followed when eating Air Force-funded meals at the Club:

- Sign the Air Force Form 79 when eating at the Club. The form will be located at the beginning of the buffet line.
- Seating for funded meals will be in the dining room portion of the Club, with overflow in the main lounge.
- All meals ordered in the Club's sports bar "Stripes" are **not** part of this agreement. Members will pay for any meals ordered in Stripes or off the dining room menu.
- Flight meals will be made for the airlift, M-16 and M-9 training as well as 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron personnel. All flight meal orders must be called into the Club no later than 2 p.m. the Friday prior to the UTA.
- Airmen on Active Duty orders will pay for all meals.
- For make-up or rescheduled UTAs, the member must leave a copy of their 40A at the reception desk.

Visit www.21fss.com for the Club's hours of operation.

Family SGLI rate drop

Beginning July 1, Reservists can take advantage of lower spousal Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premium rates. The lower rates come as the Department of Veteran's Affairs reported a favorable claims experience, allowing it to reduce rates. According to the VA, spouses will see on average a reduction in premiums by eight percent. For more information on this SGLI program, call the Mission Support Flight at (719) 556-7249.

Chaplain's Corner

He was an organized, practical man. Frugality was his watch word, especially when it came to fun. After much cajoling, his wife got him to agree to a short Hawaiian vacation. He begrudgingly consented, only after adding up the frequent flyer miles. Presenting his registration for the rental car, his attitude soured. "We don't have an economy would you accept a substitute," the clerk queried apologetically. The wife could see her husband's ears turned beet red; she winced as she predicted the upcoming emotional tsunami. The clerk, who was innocently oblivious, added there would be no extra charge, and all we have left is a red Mustang convertible. Only somewhat pacified, her husband grumped, "that would be okay." As they visited all four islands, the experience was the same: a sleek, blue Mazda; a silver Mercedes; a yellow Corvette and even a Mini Cooper with racing stripes. On the airplane home, his wife inquired, "How did you like the vacation, dear?" "Oh, it was alright, but I really wished they wouldn't have messed up on the rental cars."

Sometimes we fail to see God's blessings even when we accidently trip over them. "From His abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another" (*John 1:16*)

For spiritual services, the 302nd AW chaplain's office can be reached at (719) 556-4006

Fleece wear not free

In late April, the 21st Space Wing command chief rescinded portions of the green fleece wear policy on Peterson Air Force Base, allowing members to wear either the Air Force or Army fleece. Because the fleece is not a mandatory uniform item, members will not be reimbursed for the cost of having their rank, last name and the "U.S. Air Force" name tape sown on. Beginning Oct. 1, 2010, the policy will change to reflect only the Army fleece to be authorized as an external wear fleece. For more on uniform wear and dress and appearance standards, see Air Force Instruction 36-2903.



First sergeant board

Packages are being accepted now until close of business July 2 for senior NCOs interested in becoming first sergeants within the 302nd Airlift Wing. Packages should be sent to Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Garcia at the 302nd Mission Support Flight. Hard or electronic copies of a package can be submitted. Incomplete packages or packages received after the deadline will not be considered. Interviews will be conducted at Peterson during the July Unit Training Assembly. All qualified candidates will be contacted. For more information on how to become a first sergeant, contact Chief Master Sgt. Joe Westerland, 302nd AW command chief, at (719) 556-8132.



Have issues with your military and travel pay?

Call the 302nd Airlift Wing's finance office

(719) 556-7718



CCAF classes available

The 302nd Airlift Wing education office is offering two college courses that can transfer directly to a Community College of the Air Force associate's degree. The classes are:

Psychology 101

Dates: Aug. 7 - Sept. 10

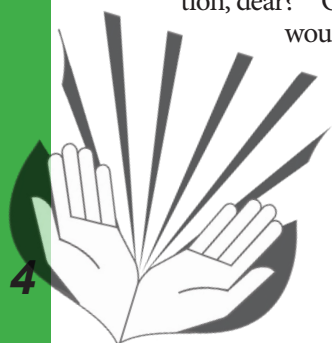
Deadline to sign up: July 15

English 102

Dates: Sept. 11 - Nov. 19

Deadline to sign up: Aug. 15

The courses are available through Colorado Christian University. Application fees for these courses has been waived. Tuition payments for both classes will be deferred until they are completed. Reservists will be responsible for book purchases. At least 15 students are required to sign up for classes before they begin. For more information, call Marie Encinias at (719) 556-7170.



How Do You Keep It All



Together?

By Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

It can be an ongoing challenge for Reservists.

One minute they're at their civilian job, working a critical project for their supervisor on a tight deadline. Then the phone rings, it's their child who needs to be picked up from school early because he is sick. They look at their watch, close to deadline time. Then an e-mail pops up. It's their Reserve supervisor asking them if they can come in early on Friday before the Unit Training Assembly.

This might sound like an oddity, but the unique and sometimes delicate balance Air Force Reservists forge with their "Reserve Triad" can be a challenge to overcome for their families, civilian jobs and service to their country.

In an April 2010 Citizen Airman magazine commentary, Chief Master Sgt. Dwight Badgett, command chief for Air Force Reserve

Command, echoed Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., and his priority of Preserving the Viability of the Reserve Triad.

"Preserving this triad means we must give equal attention to all three critical parts of our lives," Chief Badgett wrote. "We have heard this triad compared to a stool with three legs. If we neglect one of the three legs, the stool will not stand, and we cannot afford to let that happen in our home, place of business or Air Force lives."

Home life

Ask a Reservist what their number one priority is in life and generally speaking, the answer will be their family. Reserve and civilian employment can come and go over many years, but family members are always there. But coupled with duty, temporary assignments

and deployments, Capt. Daniel Harder, a logistics readiness officer from the 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, said balancing his home life is one of the hardest parts of being a Reservist.

"When you're at home, try to spend as much time with your family as possible," the captain said. "We all knew that when we signed on the dotted line that we might be away from home ... over the last few years, I've been away a lot for training and stuff like that. So I try to spend more time with the family now."

Captain Harder recently returned from a deployment to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where his organization provided support to U.S. and coalition air forces operating in the skies of over Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Being away is fresh in my mind," he confessed, "but deployments are always on

See **BALANCE**, 6

BALANCE from 5 **Civilian employment**

One of the other "legs" to the Reserve Triad "stool" is a Reservist's civilian employment. Before the end of the

Cold War, Reservists could generally expect to serve one weekend a month on duty and two weeks a year for annual tour training, limiting the amount of time they would be away from their civilian job.

But since the attacks of Sept. 11, Reservists have been asked to support their units more, whether at home or abroad. In some cases, this means Reservists have asked their employers for more time away from their civilian career to do their military job.

According to a May 2007 testimony by the Congressional Budget Office before the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, it was stated that National Guard and Reserve forces have consistently filled 25 percent of the number of deployed forces overseas, and at times have fulfilled up 33 percent of those requirements. Because this number continues to rise, the CBO identified three types of businesses that are more likely to feel the effects of a Guardsmen or Reservist deployed. These include small businesses that lose essential employees, businesses that require workers with highly-specialized skills and those Guardsmen or Reservists who are self-employed. Examples of these identified businesses exist in the 302nd Airlift Wing.

Master Sgt. Jane Link, a C-130 flight engineer and traditional

Reservist in the 731st Airlift Squadron, admitted that balancing her military obligations with a civilian career was such as a challenge that she has set out to operate her own business to better manage her Reserve Triad.

"I'm trying self-employment as an option in the hopes that I can have enough time to participate with the unit," Sergeant Link said. "Although my last employer was very supportive of my Reserve career, there just was not enough flexibility with that job to enable me to stay current and qualified as a flight engineer. That was an extremely difficult situation to manage and required supreme effort on my part to find time to fly. As a result, when the company closed, I tried being an independent consultant. But found it was still difficult to balance the demands of customers with the demands of my Air Force career."

When asked what advice she might have for other Reservists facing the same situation, Sergeant Link said it was important to keep a positive attitude.

"Never let your military life become adversarial with your

family life or civilian career," she pointed out. "The bottom line is that we need to be flexible, plan ahead, do our best and things will work out."



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is there for YOU! For more information, visit www.esgr.org

Keeping it together

For Reservists who have concerns or challenges with balancing their Reserve Triad, there is hope.

Members who struggle with finding an equilibrium between their family, employer and Reserve career have several agencies they reach out to with professionals ready to assist.

The 302nd Airlift Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Office, headed by Master Sgt. Christina Fornander, has access to a number of resources and professionals who specialize in military families.

"A Reservist or their family member may inquire about any quality of life issue and we'll provide education, resources and referrals depending on the situation," said Sergeant Fornander. "The goal of the Airman and Family Readiness Office is to match members and their families with agencies that can assist them without the member finding it on their own. Often, we have resources in hand to address hundreds of needs."



The Airman and Family Readiness Center can help you keep your 'Triad' in check. Call (719) 556-6141 for more information.

Reservists who face challenges with their civilian employer can also make use of the organization Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. Known as "ESGR," the organization, according to its website www.esgr.org, works to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees.

One of ESGR's primary missions is to provide Guardsmen and Reservists with the tools to help mediate disputes between a military member and their civilian employer. Known as the Ombudsman Services Program, ESGR can assign a trained member of their organization to a Reservist to help settle conflicts between them and their civilian employer as they pertain to the 1994 federal law known as "USERRA," or, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. An ombudsman can be assigned to help mediate a situation, but only if the Reservist requests one.

Reservists can also look to the wing's chaplain services, or their first sergeant, when they need to talk with a friendly voice. Sometimes, just speaking with a familiar voice who knows what Reservists go through can be the difference between stress and solutions. Both chaplains and first sergeants can be available at a moment's notice.

The Entrepreneur

Name: Jane Link
Rank: Master Sergeant
Unit: 731st Airlift Squadron
Military Job: C-130 Flight Engineer
Civilian Job: Web design, hosting, management

What's the hardest part about being a part-time Reservist?

The difficulty is twofold: first, there's the challenge of staying ahead of Air Force Reserve demands as well as the requirements of being a flight engineer.

These can only be achieved through devoting additional time to my Reserve career. Second, managing multitudes of information and figuring out where to get the information necessary to remain knowledgeable is a continuous undertaking as things always change.

What is one of the hardest parts about balancing between your family life?

Where balancing family life and military obligations are concerned I'm blessed to have many family and friends who have a military affiliation and a high regard for the demands of military life. As a result, they're very understanding and supportive regarding how much time I have to devote to this career.

Do you have any advice for Reservists coming up the ranks on how to better balance their lives?

Take advantage of family and employer days at the wing and ensure both see and understand what you do. Let them be as involved and informed as possible. Keep a positive attitude and never let your military life become adversarial with your family life or civilian career. The bottom line is be flexible, plan ahead, do your best and things will work out.

The Employer

Name: Steve Enea
Rank: Doctor (Lieutenant Colonel)
Unit: 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Military Job: Military Dentist
Civilian Job: Civilian Dentist and Small Business Owner

What's the hardest part about being a part-time Reservist?

Occasionally, I'll miss one of my son's hockey games or miss something my wife has planned, but they are so supportive of what I do. It's really a privilege to be able to do this because I love being able to come out here and serve my country.

What is one of the hardest parts about balancing between your family life?

I'm not so good at the balance part. My family comes first but it seems like my job has taken more of my time away than I'd like. My civilian practice is literally "eight-to-five" without a stop. Anytime I work a weekend, that's 12-days straight. I make up lost time at my practice because my worker's livelihood depends on me being there.

Do you have any advice for Reservists coming up the ranks on how to better balance their lives?

Keep things in perspective. For me, family always comes first. My country is a close second, and my civilian job would be third. Establish your priorities, stick to the things you love and if you don't like it, change it. As far as the Air Force Reserve is concerned, just being here is an honor.



Name: Nathan Federico
Rank: Senior Airman
Unit: 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Military Job: C-130 crew chief
Civilian Job: Full-time student

What's the hardest part about being a part-time Reservist?

For me, it's not really too hard. Before this, I was six years on Active Duty. Now, I'm taking advantage of my Post-9/11 GI Bill to go to school. Since coming from the KC-10 airframe, for me it's been challenging to learn maintenance on the C-130.

What is one of the hardest parts about balancing between your family life?

After you get off working Active Duty and all you have to do is focus on school and come in once a weekend, you really appreciate life. You're able to sit back and enjoy it for a little while, so I'm rewarding myself by just going to school full-time.

Do you have any advice for Reservists coming up the ranks on how to better balance their lives?

If you're not going to school, go to school. We get benefits so people should take advantage of them. If you don't have your education, go out and get it.

The Worker

Name: Daniel Harder
Rank: Captain
Unit: 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Military Job: Logistics Readiness Officer
Civilian Job: U.S. Postal Service

What's the hardest part about being a part-time Reservist?

I guess the juggling back and forth between the two and traveling on (temporary duty) from time to time. I'm lucky that having a government job is a little bit easier to deal with when I need to complete Reserve duty.

What is one of the hardest parts about balancing between your family life?

Balancing family is definitely one of the hardest parts. Over the last few years, I've been away a lot for training and stuff like that. You have to do what you can. I try to spend more time with the family now, but deployments are always on the horizon. Recently, I had a short deployment to Turkey in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. So being away is fresh in my mind.

Do you have any advice for Reservists coming up the ranks on how to better balance their lives?

I've had challenges with it myself, but when you're at home, try to spend as much time with your family as possible. We all knew that when we signed on the dotted line that we might be away from home for a certain amount of time.

Readership survey reveals Airmen think Flyer 'vital' information source

By Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

We asked, you spoke: the 2009 Front Range Flyer readership survey results are now available.

In January and February, the 302nd Airlift Wing public affairs office conducted a wing-wide readership survey to better gauge its reader's likes and dislikes pertaining to the wing's quarterly magazine, the *Front Range Flyer*. More than 120 Reservists responded to the 19 survey questions, with 30 percent of respondents originating from the 302nd Mission Support Group.

Breaking down responders even further, more than 34 percent of those who took the survey identified themselves as being between the age of 41 and 48, while more than 64 percent identified themselves as male.

Three-quarters of survey respondents revealed they read all four issues of the Flyer printed throughout the year. Furthermore, more than 55 percent selected "agree" or "strongly agree" when asked if the magazine was a vital source of unit news to them.

"We greatly appreciate the feedback we received from 302nd

Airlift Wing members from this readership survey," said Ann Skarban, chief of the 302nd AW's public affairs office. "Knowing what is important to our primary audience helps us make better decisions on the content of each quarter's magazine. We work hard with each edition to select the most interesting and newsworthy items to share with the wing and the information gained from this survey will help us to do just that."

With the addition of electronic communication tools, including the wing's public website and a "Facebook" social media page, the ability to share information and stories has expanded beyond the traditional print publication.

But while 72 percent of respondents said they were aware of the wing's public website, only two-thirds of overall responses indicated 302nd AW members visit the site during Unit Training Assemblies or not at all. This fact was also coupled with close to 48 percent of respondents who revealed they would not use social media sites, like Facebook or Twitter, to get their news from the wing.

"The amount of news we can put in the *Front Range Flyer* is limited by space and budget," said Capt. Jody Ritchie, deputy chief of wing public affairs, "so I hope Reservists continue to look to the website for up-to-date information; we are dedicated to the site and update it nearly every business day."

Since undergoing a major redesign in the spring of 2009, the *Front Range Flyer* has garnered praise from both wing members and Air Force Reserve Command officials, where it took third place overall for best magazine in the command. That redesign incorporated more dynamic graphics, provided an enhanced layout for better functionality and added a more visually appealing design for readers, while being presented in a "21st century" layout.

To see the complete results of the *Front Range Flyer* readership survey, visit www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



Citizen Airmen prepare for 2010 wildland fire season



By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield



By Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Abdul Ganeu Abdulai, a C-130 Hercules crew chief, watches a pressure meter while filling a Modular Airborne Firefighting System with pressurized water April 28 during the 2010 MAFFS certification training in Greenville, S.C.

ABOVE: Sergeant Abdulai races back to a MAFFS "pit" April 28. Maintenance and ground crews support several missions when aircraft return from a fire, including aircraft power generation, refueling and rearming with fire retardant or water.

Yellow Ribbon

Reintegration and relaxation



*Story and photos by Capt. Jody Ritchie
- Front Range Flyer staff -*

THE BOTTOMLINE

Getting involved in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

Members interested in more information on YRRP events or to know how to volunteer, call the 302nd Airlift Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Center at: (800) 446-9624, opt. 3

Deployments can mean stressful times with long days, few breaks and a barrage of constant, and sometimes unexpected, demands -- it's not easy staying home when a loved one deploys.

Then the deployed member comes home and sometimes has difficulty finding their place in the new family structure.

"It's almost like time stands still while you are deployed," said Master Sgt. Matthew Youkey, 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant. "But things have been moving forward back home."

The challenges some Air Force Reserve families face are the reason Congress established in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in 2007. The program, according to its website www.yellowribbon.mil, provides National Guardsmen and Reserve members and their families with information, services, referrals and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the deployment cycle.

Recently-deployed members of the 302nd Airlift Wing braved an April Rocky Mountain winter storm to participate in the Colorado National Guard's two-day YRRP event

in Vail. Members and spouses received briefings and information while their children were given the chance to spend time at a mountain ranch. Briefing topics included information on support systems, physical health, mental health, education and financial benefits available from organizations such as the 302nd AW Airman and Family Readiness office, the Key Spouse Program with the 302nd AW and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"My kids are actually doing something fun and not in daycare while I'm here," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Archuleta, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron aeromedical technician, as he sat in a break out session where military members discussed experiences and challenges they faced when they came home.

Military members and their spouses sat together during reintegration briefings and were later split up during breakout sessions to discuss their experiences with groups that could relate.

"My wife loves this," Staff Sgt. Lee Cruz, 302nd Services Flight fitness specialist said. "She's getting some closure and feels better."

"For the spouses, to hear someone else talk about this topic is helpful," added Lt. Col. Brian Brech, 302nd CES commander.

This was the first time many of the spouses heard of the programs available to them during a loved one's absence. "The more we get our spouses involved, the more they know about the support network available," commented Sergeant Youkey.

Master Sgt. Christina Fornander, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 302nd AW Airman and Family Readiness Office, said feedback from the event was "very positive."

"I think [YRRP] helped the people who were able to make it through the [winter] storm."



See all the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program photos from Vail at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil/photos

302nd Airlift Wing

Rye, son of Air Force Reservist Senior Master Sgt. Michael Gettman, shows off his painted hand April 24 after putting the finishing touches on his team's wooden horse. Families teamed up to build a wooden horse that would later be raced as part of a team building exercise at 4 Eagle Ranch near Vail, Colo.



Air Force Reserve, Active Duty together

*Accurate communication
key at Peterson's
installation control center*



By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer staff

When a crisis occurs on Peterson Air Force Base that could endanger those working and living here, whether natural or man-made, there is one organization that knows how to respond: the Peterson Installation Control Center.

"The PICC is the pulse of Peterson AFB. Our commanders know they can rely on us for timely information," said Maj. Alicia Button, who recently assumed the position of officer-in-charge of the 302nd Airlift Wing's command post personnel. "Our 'Total Force' Command Post is comprised of highly-experienced individuals charged with the safety of everyone on this base."

When an emergency occurs, it's critical that those who need accurate information get it as quickly as possible so the best decisions can be made. The PICC does just that by "pulling" and "pushing" information from subject matter experts on the ground during a crisis to the commanders and team leaders who need it most.

And the PICC does more than just control crisis. The control center's technicians and leadership are in contact with aircrews flying over and around Peterson. This gives the PICC inputs of not only what is happening on base, but above it as well.

"Basically, it's a hub for any kind of information and any kind of emergency response that happens on this base," said Master Sgt. Jason Winer, who until recently served as the PICC superintendent before accepting another assignment out of state. "You have command post personnel whose job is to keep senior leadership informed of developing situations and any crucial information; you have security forces, who are in charge of the security and safety of base personnel; and you have firefighters who are responsible for any kind of emergency responses that happen on this base."

And while all emergency calls go through the PICC, the controllers on duty must determine what the next step is with all available information.

"It's our job to determine which information needs to be acted

upon," Sergeant Winer said. "We have a series of checklists that help us decide. We share the information between the three entities, for the greater good of the base. It's a 24-7, 365 day-a-year operation."

What makes this control center unique is that it's manned by both Air Force Reserve Airmen from the 302nd AW and Active Duty personnel from Peterson's host unit, the 21st Space Wing. The integration of both AF Reserve and Active Duty command posts occurred at the end of 2008. While there have been some obstacles, the personnel involved have made the parallel concept not only work, but work well.

"The integration into a Total Force command post has been a challenge. The Active Duty and AF Reserve components of the PICC have each taken on the other's mission. Having true professionals on both sides has been vital," said Major Button.

This integration not only between the three emergency response organizations, but also the AF Reserve and Active Duty personnel, could soon be used wherever Airmen are stationed.

"[The Air Force] is going to this concept in a deployed environment because it keeps the information centralized," explained Sergeant Winer.

"We used to have the three entities split up, and it would delay information. Sometimes information would get lost in translation going from one point to the second point to the third point. Now more bases in more deployed locations are going to this concept, for the simple fact it keeps the information more accurate and more efficient."

"The PICC is the pulse of Peterson Air Force Base."

- Maj. Alicia Button
Officer-in-charge, 302nd AW Command Post

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Services Airman gains valuable experience from 'Women in Aviation'

By Maj. Kallece Quinn
Front Range Flyer staff

Air Force Reservist Senior Airman Cindy Rojas has always been a go getter.

"My mom always reminds me about the time when I was eight and she asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I told her I wanted to be the big boss." After a quick smile, Airman Rojas reveals just ten years later, she became the big boss.

At the age of 18, Airman Rojas became the youngest general manager for a La Casita Restaurant, a chain of Mexican restaurants in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area. Even with this new responsibility at such a young age, she still felt she had not reached her full potential; she still wanted to be the big boss. That desire led her to the Air Force Reserve and to a position in the services career field.

"I am proud to be a part of an organization that takes pride in the task at hand," Airman Rojas, a Raton, N.M. native, said. "The 302nd Airlift Wing is my extended family and I feel strongly connected with its members."

That connection led her to join the wing's Human Resource Development Council, a group within the 302nd AW charged with personally and professionally developing a highly-skilled, motivated, enthusiastic and diverse workforce. HRDC helps to connect wing members,

from the most junior in rank to the most seasoned officer, with a number of professional development opportunities each year. One of those opportunities included the Women in Aviation, International organization, which hosted its annual conference Feb. 25-27 in Orlando, Fla. Airman Rojas was one of the 302nd AW's conference attendees.

According to the nonprofit organization's website, www.wai.org, WAI provides networking, education, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women and men who strive for challenging and fulfilling careers in both the aviation and aerospace industries.

Become part of the Human Resources Development Council and make a positive impact on your wing and local community

Join one of HRDC's working groups:

-  Orientation and Assimilation
-  Career Development and Mentoring
-  Morale and Retention
-  Marketing and Relations
-  Community Outreach



During the three day WAI conference, Airman Rojas, and four other attendees from the 302nd AW, listened to keynote speakers from all aspects of the aviation industry, attended breakout sessions that dealt with a variety of topics, including impactful leadership and aviation milestones, as well as visited the more than 100 exhibits on display. The conference also gave Airmen like Rojas the opportunity to network with key members of the aviation industry, both military and civilian alike.

"Part of our HRDC mission is to develop our Airmen both professionally and personally," said Col. Bob Chapman, 302nd AW vice commander and HRDC chairman. "We are trying to positively impact them by investing in their careers and we believe having our Airmen attend these types of conferences can provide them with invaluable experience."

Colonel Chapman identified Airman Rojas as a prime example of a motivated AF Reservist.

"Here is an Airman who joined the Air Force Reserve straight out high school with the hope it would open up new opportunities for her," the colonel said. "This is an Airman who actively participates in programs such as HRDC without neglecting her career field, upgrade training or duties required by her job."

After attending WAI conference, Airman Rojas admitted she has only reached 50 percent of what she is capable of.

"Humans have the tendency to not like change or the unknown," she said. "However, any one of us can make our dreams reality and I am ready to make mine happen. WAI gave me the motivation and ambition that now fuels my career goals. I want to excel in every aspect that my career in the 302nd Services Flight provides and move up in the ranks to a supervisory position where I can mentor my fellow Airmen. One day, I can tell my mom that I have accomplished my goal and I have become the big boss, an Air Force chief master sergeant."

In a speech to her fellow Airmen at the 302nd Services Flight, Airman Rojas pointed to the WAI conference as being "extremely valuable" to her military career.

"I am motivated to attend Airman Leadership School and work towards my Community College of the Air Force degree, which will enhance my performance for my unit and further my education," she said. "The [WAI] conference showed me that anything I set my mind to do can be accomplished and that nothing is impossible."

To learn more about what HRDC can do for you, contact your unit's first sergeant.

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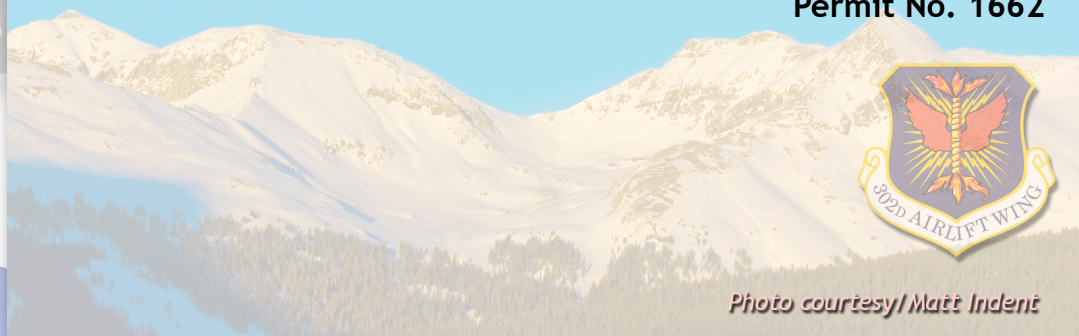


Photo courtesy/Matt Indent

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



NAME: Staff Sgt. April White
UNIT: 302nd Operations Group
JOB: Intelligence analyst
HOMETOWN: Dallas

FOREWORD

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

When and why did you enter the military? I enlisted in the Air Force in November 2005. I joined because I feel it's your patriotic duty. I grew up around the military and always loved it. My grandfather was a chief master sergeant and my dad was a Marine. I just always had it instilled in me that it's your patriotic duty to join the military.

What's your civilian job? Since leaving Active Duty, I've been on orders with the 302nd Airlift Wing.

How has joining the military impacted your life? It's changed my way of thinking about things. I definitely have matured and learned about how to take on more responsibility. Also, I think you gain a lot of self respect. I have also taken a different perspective on many things in life that I have thought about because of my intelligence background.

What type of hobbies do you have? Mostly hanging out with my son. We go to the park, we go to the zoo. When my family lived in Hawaii, we would go to the ocean to scuba dive and surf, but now we do a lot of hikes and go to parks.

What's your favorite music and movie? Country music, all the way. It's because I'm a Texas girl... it's what we do there! As for a movie, I'd say Moulin Rouge! I love the musical aspect and I'm a diehard romantic at heart.

If you could tell someone on the street one thing about what you do, what would it be? I defend my county and would do anything for it.



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