

First C-130 Special Missions Conference held here ... See 5

FRONT RANGE  
**FLYER**

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 26, No. 1

Spring 2011



# Welcome Home

Maintenance, operations return after  
four-month Southwest Asia deployment

It's coming ... time to begin  
preparing for Wing's 2012  
ORL. Get the info you need.

More on 3

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



# FRONT &

\\ CENTER //

A major focus for our Wing in 2011 will be the preparation and planning for the Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for October 2012. The ORI is conducted to evaluate and measure the ability of units with a wartime, contingency or force sustainment mission to perform an operations plan and assigned tasks. It will test our ability to deploy a large portion of the wing (about 400 members) into a chemical threat, wartime environment and effectively operate. The ORI will help us to answer the question, "Are we ready?"

While October 2012 seems like a long time away, in "Air Force Reserve time," from this April, the ORI is only 18 Unit Training Assemblies away. For those who will be deeply involved, the ORI will be here before we know it.

To prepare for the ORI the Wing will follow a preparation regimen which will include exercises, station training, Operational Readiness Training Programs or ORTPs, and an Operational Readiness Exercise. It is important we make the most of these opportunities as they will help us fine tune our

skills and build a team that will succeed.

I have great confidence in this Wing's ability to achieve. I've seen our members rise to the occasion and succeed in many challenges ranging from individual and unit deployments to our ability to provide critical airlift support at a moment's notice.

Let's continue to work together, prepare and be able to show our Air Mobility Command inspectors the high level of professionalism and outstanding abilities of this Wing.

And finally, when our operation tempo increases it becomes even more important to remember your Reserve triad – or the balance between your family, civilian employer and Reserve commitment. Continue to communicate with your civilian employer and family about your role in the Reserve – whether you are part of the ORI or not. Their support of your Reserve career is critical, recognized and appreciated.



**Col. Jay Pittman**  
302nd Airlift Wing commander

Vol. 26, No. 1 // SPRING EDITION

## Editorial Staff

### Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing

COL. JAY PITTMAN

### Chief, Public Affairs

ANN SKARBAN

### Officers

MAJ. KALLECE QUINN  
CAPT. JODY RITCHIE  
CAPT. CORINNA JONES

### Staff

TECH. SGT. DANIEL BUTTERFIELD  
STAFF SGT. STEPHEN COLLIER  
SENIOR AIRMAN  
MORANDA MATHIEU

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
450 W. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 113  
Peterson AFB, CO 80914  
Tel: (719) 556-4117  
Fax: (719) 556-4214  
Email: 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil

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# ORI PREPARATION OVERVIEW

*You are deployed and come across an unexploded ordnance. What do you do? If you don't know the answer, now is the time to open your Airman's Manual to page 129.*

The Airman's Manual is one key tool 302nd Airmen need to be familiar with in order to succeed during the Operational Readiness Inspection Oct. 21-28, 2012. During this time Airmen from the 302nd and 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson Miss. will "deploy" together to a forward location in Volk Field, Wis.

## What is an ORI?

ORIs are conducted to evaluate and measure the ability of a unit to perform in wartime, during a contingency or a force sustainment mission, according to Air Force Instruction 90-201, Inspector General Activities. Every wing undergoes an ORI approximately every five years.

## What is evaluated?

An ORI evaluates four areas: initial response, employment, mission support and the ability to survive and operate, or ATSO, in a hostile environment.

>>*Initial response* consists of processing through a mobility line, so it's essential Airmen have their mobility folders, ancillary training and shots up-to-date.

>>*The employment and sustainment* portion of the ORI is getting to the location and setting up work areas.

>>*Mission support* is evaluating how Airmen perform the job they are trained to do.

>>*ATSO* is operating in a simulated chemical environment, and inspectors evaluate how Airmen respond to force protection conditions, alarm condition changes, MOPP levels and attacks. Inspectors also evaluate the ability of the base population to identify, mark, report and avoid post-attack hazards as well as how individuals perform self-aid and buddy care.

A five-tiered rating system is used to grade wing performance and consists of outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal, and unsatisfactory.

## How to prepare?

Start preparing now! Know your Airman's Manual.

Stay on top of ancillary training.

Know your Airman's Manual well enough so you don't have to keep referring to it. Inspectors will ask Airmen questions, such as what alarm condition yellow means. It's legal to refer to it, so tab your manual so it's easy to reference if needed.

## ORI Preparation Schedule

<b>Present – 2012</b>	ORI Station Training
<b>Feb. 8-12, 2011</b>	Operational Readiness Training Program 3: Gulfport, Miss. for six days. Mobility/ Chemical gear required
<b>Sept. 17-24, 2011</b>	All ORI players go to Volk Field, Wis. for Operational Readiness Training Program 4
<b>May 2011 – March 2011</b>	Fix problem areas learned from ORTPs
<b>April 2012</b>	Operational Readiness Exercise at ORI site
<b>Oct. 14-20, 2012</b>	Pre-ORE Week. Address last minute fixes
<b>Oct. 12-28, 2012</b>	<b>ORI</b>
<b>Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013</b>	ORI "Relook"

*An interactive online version of the Airman's Manual is located at <https://commweb.hill.af.mil/AMT>*

## ON THE COVER



Air Force Reserve Master Sgt. Melissa Gomez hugs her daughter Brianna after returning Jan. 18 to Peterson Air Force Base. Sergeant Gomez served as an information technology client support technician for the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron during her four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. Sergeant Gomez is assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 310th Space Wing, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.

Photo/Capt. Andrea Judkins



# Operations, maintenance, C-130s return after four-month desert deployment

by Ann Skarban  
302nd Airlift Wing

Approximately 150 members of the 302nd Airlift Wing's operations and maintenance groups and four C-130 Hercules aircraft, returned to awaiting family and friends January 18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., after a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

The first group of deployers returned during the early morning hours that day via a contract airline carrier. Then during the late afternoon the same day, the C-130 cargo aircraft and remaining deployed Reservists returned.

The Air Force Reservists provided C-130 airlift in support of Operations New Dawn in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. While deployed, 302nd Airlift Wing members flew more than 350 missions with nearly 1,000 sorties. The Reservists moved more than 12,000 troops, 300 wounded warriors, 100 high-ranking U.S. officials and 2,600 tons of wartime material with an excellent mission effectiveness rating.

"I am extremely proud of the many contributions the members of our wing made while deployed to Southwest Asia. Their hard work and professionalism are evident in their nearly perfect mission effectiveness results and the

sheer volume of airlift missions they flew," said Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd Airlift Wing commander.

"Lt. Col. (Steven) Foss and I set the tone from the start, and I can only attribute our success to his support. The maintenance and operations relationship was stellar from the start," said Capt. Collin "Bo" Shelton, 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander. "Our maintenance operations were 24/7. The success we achieved can be attributed



Photo/Capt. Holly Cookson

Nicholas Coppa, son of Lt. Col. Steven Coppa, a C-130 evaluator/instructor navigator with the 731st Airlift Squadron, awaits the return of his father January 18 at Peterson Air Force Base.



Photo/Capt. Holly Cookson

Master Sgt. Brian McAmis is hugged by his son Cody and greeted with open arms by his daughter Bailey on January 18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Sergeant McAmis deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn with the 302nd Airlift Wing operations and maintenance deployment package. Sergeant McAmis is the 302nd Maintenance Squadron guidance and control shop assistant section chief.

to the maintenance and operations relationship and our work ethic; we were proactive the entire time, instead of reactive. Our organization was recognized on numerous occasions by the wing commander and distinguished visitors for being above the rest. The other units could never figure out how we were maximizing our efficiency -- most of it was all attitude."

Colonel Foss was the deployed commander of the expeditionary 302nd AW Airmen.

In addition to airlifting patients, pallets and people in Southwest Asia, 302nd AW aircrews and aircraft were the last fixed-wing aircraft to provide humanitarian support to flood-ravaged Pakistan.

"The forward deployment to Pakistan stands out in my mind as we were providing humanitarian relief to the country, as well as transporting passengers," said Captain Shelton. "We actually flew to some remote areas and saw the devastation, as well as some breathtaking mountains. Many of the people, young and old were thankful; I had small children grab my hand, and Pakistani military members give me unit patches or insignia as a sign of thanks."

Excited family members and friends filled the wing's maintenance hangar as the arriving C-130s and Air Force Reservists were met with welcome home signs, American flags waving and an outpouring of emotion. Before reuniting with his wife and departing for his home for the first time in four months, Captain Shelton said one moment would stand out in his mind from the day's arrival.

"I think the cart-wheels on the ramp [by Mrs. Marie Shelton] as we taxied in will always bring a smile to my face."

# Reserve C-130 Special Mission Units Learn from each other

by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield  
302nd Airlift Wing

Although the missions of aerial firefighting, aerial spraying and hunting hurricanes are different, they have enough in common to learn from each other. This was the focus of the second day of the Air Force Reserve C-130 Special Mission conference Jan. 13 here.

“This [conference] came about by looking at these three missions and some of the similarities we have in operations and issues. By sharing what each unit does really well we can pool our knowledge and learn from each other,” said Lt. Col. David Condit, Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System program manager for the 302nd Airlift Wing, and the conference coordinator. “We found we have some overlapping issues affecting the way we do our atypical missions.”

The 302nd AW aerial firefighting unit, the hurricane hunters of the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and aerial spray members from the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Base, Ohio, met to discuss their key lessons from recent missions and plans for the future of these atypical missions.

“Anytime you can learn from your peers, it’s a good thing,” said Thomas LaCrosse, Director of Defense Support of Civil Authorities in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and America’s Security Affairs. “I think there are some differences, and some lessons learned in conducting these operations that can inform the other units and expand the overall knowledge and experience of these units.”

One thing these Reserve units do have in common is even though they are fully capable military units, each special mission is non-military in nature. They help fight fires with the U.S. Forest Service, perform weather reconnaissance in support of the Department of Commerce and control mosquito populations and disperse oil spills.

“From the office of the secretary of defense perspective these are vital missions where the department of defense supports civilian authorities,” said Mr. LaCrosse.

Another commonality each of these missions is they are carried out by highly trained and experienced Air Force Reservists.

“These wings are manned and staffed with Citizen



Photo/Capt. Marnee A.C. Losurdo

Airmen and aircraft from the 302nd Airlift Wing, 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Base, Ohio, convened for the Air Force Reserve Command’s first C-130 Special Missions conference Jan. 12-13 at Peterson Air Force Base. The conference was designed to share lessons learned, review policies and procedures, and tackle common support and wing issues involved with the aerial firefighting, weather reconnaissance and aerial spray missions.

Airmen, who have jobs in their local communities, Monday through Friday, they come out on the weekends, or come out when they are called to perform these missions. They are an incredible bargain for the U.S. taxpayer and every bit as capable as their active duty counterpart even though they do it on a part-time basis,” said Maj. Gen. James Rubeor, commander of 22nd Air Force. Many of the lessons focused on improving processes and policies. While the way ahead focused on improving the mission effectiveness through better policies, training and equipment.

“Military support to civil authorities has become a complex operation. It’s important for us to bring experts from these specialized missions together to talk about what works and what doesn’t as well as what needs to be improved,” General Rubeor said. “Our Reservists never lose sight of the fact that they play a supporting role to our nation’s Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions. Local directors of emergency management will work to bring these assets of their community to bear and to integrate the assets of nearby communities through mutual-aid agreements as quickly as possible in the time of need.”

While there was a lot of information shared amongst the units, currently there are no plans to meet again.

“There are several issues that came out of this conference. So we are going to work those issues over the course of the next year, and we’ll take a look and see if it’s worthwhile to come together again. I’m in favor of it,” said the general.

Learn more about aerial firefighting at

[www.302aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.302aw.afrc.af.mil)



## 'BUILDING' TFI AT PETERSON

A groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 14 signaled the construction of a new Total Force Integration C-130 squadron operations facility at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The \$5.6 million, 12,500-square foot facility will become the centerpiece of the Air Force Reserve and Air Mobility Commands' new TFI campus at Peterson and is expected to provide operational work space for the 52nd Airlift Squadron, an Active Duty organization, and the Air Force Reserve's 731st Airlift Squadron.

The 52nd AS, assigned to the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., associated with the 302nd Airlift Wing in October 2009 as part of the Air Force's TFI initiative. The facility is scheduled for completion in early 2012.

## CHILI COOKOFF 'KICKS OFF' FAMILY DAY EVENT

The 302nd Airlift Wing Family Day Committee hosted its annual chili cookoff event Feb. 26 as part of a number of events supporting the wing's 2011 Family Day. Taste testers experienced 21 unique recipes, in which they named two, overall winners. First place winners were:

- **RED CHILI CATEGORY:** Russell Dunlap, spouse of Master Sgt. Helena Dunlap, 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
- **GREEN CHILI CATEGORY:** Senior Master Sgt. Dean "Dino" Firestien of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron

The 2011 Family Day is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 6.

## YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command's new Office of Deployment Cycle Support is charged with ensuring that deploying Reservists and their families are well taken care of through the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Commonly known as "YRRP," the program is congressionally directed and ensures deployment support and reintegration programs are provided in all phases of a Reservist's deployment, to include pre-deployment, deployment, demobilization and post-deployment and reconstitution.

The office provides policy guidance, collects data on support events offered at AFRC organizations, identifies best practices, standardizes support requirements and trains and supports wings in meeting program requirements.

For more information on YRRP, contact the 302nd Airlift Wing's Yellow Ribbon point of contact, Capt. Thea Gessner, at (719) 556-4822.



Photo/Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

LEFT TO RIGHT: John Galloway, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers resident engineer; Shawn Anderson, A4 Construction vice president; Lt. Col. Carlos Ortiz, 52nd Airlift Squadron commander; Col. Richard Batzer, 21st Dental Squadron director of the area laboratory; and Col. Jack H. Pittman, Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander, break ground on a new Total Force Integration C-130 operations facility Feb. 14 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

## AEROMEDS, AERIAL PORTERS DEPLOY

Approximately 75 members of both the 39th Aerial Port and 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons will begin deployments throughout the December through May timeframe in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

Flight nurses and aeromedical technicians assigned to the 34th AES are providing airborne medical care for a variety of patients, including America's wounded warriors. The Airmen, who are expected to be deployed for approximately four months, are based throughout Southwest Asia and are assigned to a variety of aircraft including the C-130, C-17 and KC-135.

Deployed transportation specialists from the 39th APS are charged with processing cargo and passengers at numerous aerial port facilities throughout Southwest Asia.

Members from both squadrons are expected to return in the spring and summer.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Fitness center open early

The 21st Force Support Squadron will now open the Peterson Air Force base fitness center at 6 a.m. instead of 6:30 a.m. on Unit Training Assembly weekends to accommodate unit fitness programs. If 302nd Airlift Wing personnel take advantage of the earlier opening, the fitness center will continue opening at the earlier time. If patronage does not justify the earlier opening, the fitness center will revert back to a 6:30 a.m. opening. Reservists who use the fitness center on UTAs must sign the 302nd AW sign-in sheet.

## Spice can spoil your career

Air Force officials began drug testing Airmen Feb. 22 to determine whether they are using Spice. With the implementation of testing, officials intend to send a very clear message: use Spice, and you may lose your career, end up in jail or both, officials said. Spice, considered by some to be a marijuana alternative because it has the same effects, is a mixture of potentially dangerous herbs coated with chemicals and is often smoked like a cigarette. It is banned from use by Airmen and scheduled to soon become illegal for all U.S. citizens. If an Airman uses Spice, disciplinary or adverse administrative actions will be pursued under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

## Free anti-virus software

Downloading anti-virus software for home use is now easier for all Air Force Portal users. The software is provided at no cost as part of the Department of Defense Home-Use program. Users can directly download the software from home. Client software is available from Symantec© and McAfee© for all supported versions of Microsoft© Windows™ and Apple© MacOS™ operating systems. For more information on where and how to download the anti-virus software, visit [www.302aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.302aw.afrc.af.mil).

## Scholarship Opportunities

The Air Force Association is an independent, nonprofit, civilian education organization promoting public understanding of aerospace power and the pivotal role it plays in the security of the nation. AFA has a variety of scholarships available for Airmen and their families. For more information, go to <http://www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars.asp>.

## TRICARE changes

Two major changes were recently made to the early TRICARE benefit: the benefit period is now up to 180 days prior to the tour start date and the benefits do not begin until the date the order is issued. For questions concerning eligibility, contact DSN 497-1265.

## Employer Day 2011

On Friday, June 3, employers of AF Reservists are invited to participate in a tour of 302nd Airlift Wing facilities and partake in an orientation flight on a C-130. Cut out and fill in the form below and return it to Public Affairs no later than May 15. Forms can be dropped off at Bldg. 893, Room 113; faxed to (719) 556-4214; or mailed to 302 AW/PA, 450 W. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 171, Peterson AFB, CO, 80914. For more information, call Public Affairs at (719) 556-4117 or visit [www.302aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.302aw.afrc.af.mil).

### 302nd Airlift Wing Employer Appreciation Day

*(Return to the Public Affairs office // Bldg. 893, Suite 113)*

#### Employer Information

Employer's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer's title/position \_\_\_\_\_  
Company name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reservist Information

Rank/name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_  
Duty phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Mon - Fri e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Civilian work phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Military position title \_\_\_\_\_  
Civilian position title \_\_\_\_\_



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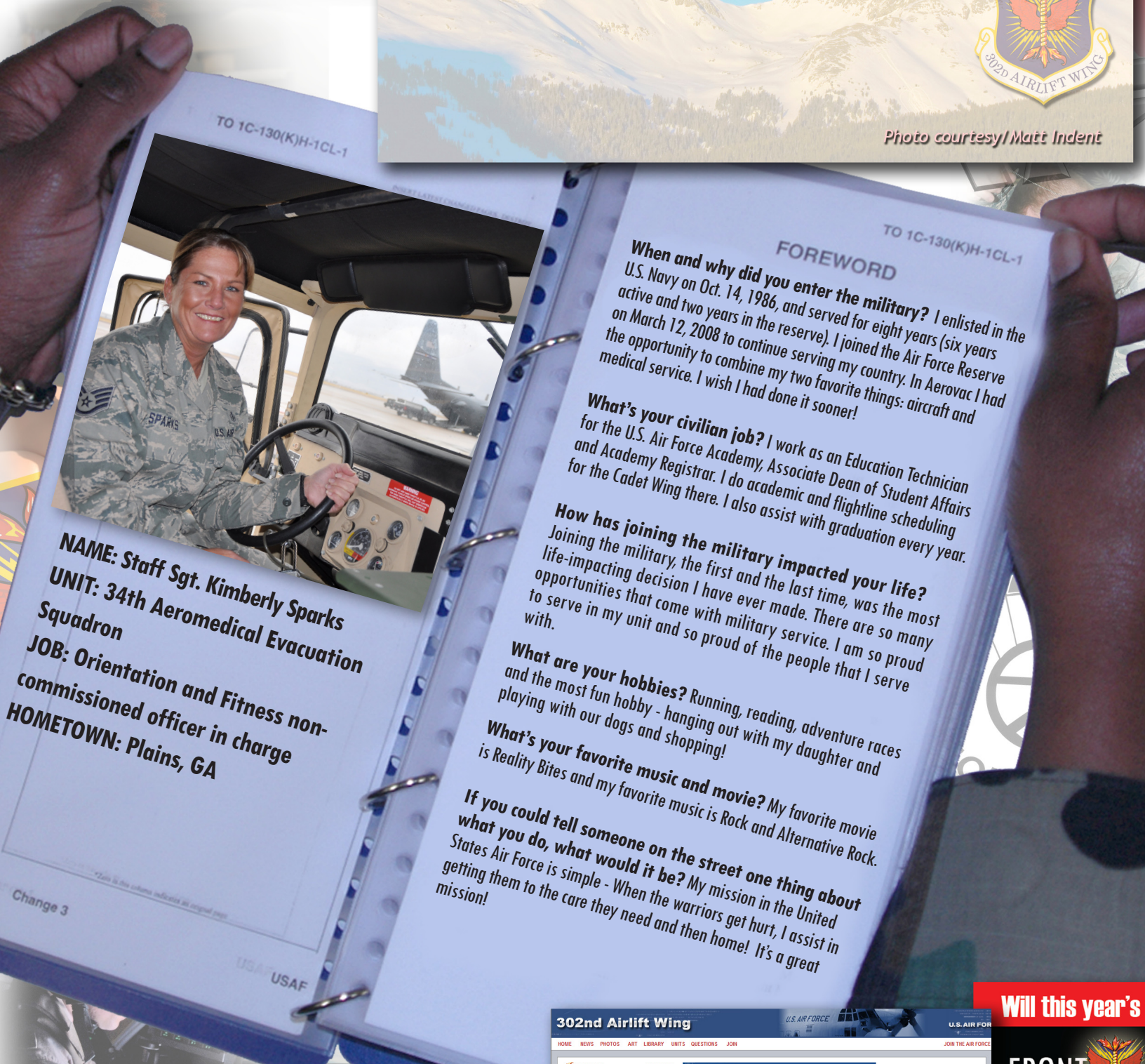
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TO 1C-130(K)H-1CL-1



**NAME:** Staff Sgt. Kimberly Sparks  
**UNIT:** 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron  
**JOB:** Orientation and Fitness non-commissioned officer in charge  
**HOMETOWN:** Plains, GA

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

**When and why did you enter the military?** I enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Oct. 14, 1986, and served for eight years (six years active and two years in the reserve). I joined the Air Force Reserve on March 12, 2008 to continue serving my country. In Aerovac I had the opportunity to combine my two favorite things: aircraft and medical service. I wish I had done it sooner!

**What's your civilian job?** I work as an Education Technician for the U.S. Air Force Academy, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Academy Registrar. I do academic and flightline scheduling for the Cadet Wing there. I also assist with graduation every year.

**How has joining the military impacted your life?** Joining the military, the first and the last time, was the most life-impacting decision I have ever made. There are so many opportunities that come with military service. I am so proud to serve in my unit and so proud of the people that I serve with.

**What are your hobbies?** Running, reading, adventure races and the most fun hobby - hanging out with my daughter and playing with our dogs and shopping!

**What's your favorite music and movie?** My favorite movie is Reality Bites and my favorite music is Rock and Alternative Rock.

**If you could tell someone on the street one thing about what you do, what would it be?** My mission in the United States Air Force is simple - When the warriors get hurt, I assist in getting them to the care they need and then home! It's a great mission!

302nd Airlift Wing U.S. AIR FORCE U.S. AIR FORCE

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