

52nd Airlift Squadron, fully operational See 10

FRONT  RANGE
FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 26, No. 4

Winter 2011



ORTP 4-- Wing trains to win

Air Force Reservists from the 302nd Airlift Wing gear up as a team

More on 4

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

FRONT &

\\ CENTER //

The face of the wing is changing. As our unit evolves and grows, we are actually getting younger, overall. With our active duty associate squadron, the 52nd Airlift Squadron, and more of our members joining the wing without prior military service, we are seeing a younger and more diverse age demographic within the wing.

The diversity within the Air Force Reserve and the 302nd Airlift Wing gives us a rich combination of experience and a variety of skill sets to draw upon to succeed in accomplishing our mission.

This changing demographic also offers an opportunity for our more experienced Airmen to help shape and develop our newest members.

For our highly experienced team members, I ask you to look around your units and shops and reach out to the next generation of Airmen. Please get to know your teammates, listen, learn and guide them. This includes both guidance in the job and in life. Offer your experiences and lessons learned. Use your wisdom and judgment to help our young, impressionable Airmen arrive at decisions which reflect the Air Force Core Values (integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do). Be a mentor.



Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

Today's world can be complicated--popular media and society sends thousands of messages 24/7 -- the message and example you offer can make an important difference to our younger Airmen.

Diversity is good, and we can become great by leveraging the opportunities from learning from one another.

Happy holidays to you and your families. Be safe, be a Wingman and a mentor!

FRONT RANGE FLYER

Vol. 26, No. 4 // WINTER EDITION

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3 Readiness requirements

As an Air Force Reservist, you are responsible to maintain your medical readiness, not only for the upcoming ORI, but year round. Following these three steps will help you stay out of the **RED!**

INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL READINESS (IMR)

1) Members can check their own IMR status anytime from a military computer at:
<https://asims.afms.mil/webapp/MyIMR.aspx>

2) You must complete your Air Force Web-Based Health Assessment (AF WEB HA) within 60 days of your scheduled physical date: <https://afwebha.afms.mil>

DENTAL READINESS

3) Air Force Reservists are required to receive a military dental exam by Air Force providers once every three years. You are asked to see your civilian provider within a 90-day window of the annual due date for the other two years. When you see your civilian provider you must have them sign the DD Form 2813 as proof of the exam. The completed 2813 must then be turned into the base dental clinic.

• Options are available for Reserve members to receive free civilian dental exams:

Logistics Health Incorporated Reserve Readiness Program
1-800-666-2833, ext 3558 or 1-888-697-4299

SEEKING HEALTH BENEFITS?

Air Force Reservists and their families are eligible to apply for the TRICARE Reserve Select Health Plan unless already covered under or eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program:

<http://www.tricare.mil/reserve/ReserveSelect>

SALUTE REPORT

SIZE: Illustrations of soldiers, tanks, and vehicles.

ACTIVITY: Illustrations of soldiers running.

LOCATION: Illustrations of a map and a compass.

UNIT: Illustrations of a jet and a uniform.

TIME: Illustrations of several analog clocks.

EQUIPMENT: Illustrations of AK-47 rifles, backpacks, and gas masks.

Use the **SALUTE** report as a quick and effective way to communicate ground enemy attack information up the chain of command.

Example of a **SALUTE** Report: "Six enemy soldiers running away from the command post, heading towards the flightline. Uniforms solid green fatigues. Time is 0230 hours. Equipment AK-47 rifles, backpacks and carrying gasmasks."

An interactive online version of the Airman's Manual is located at <https://wbhill06p.hill.af.mil/AMT>

ON THE COVER



302nd Airlift Wing Air Force Reservist, Tech. Sgt. Brandien Leary helps her partner don his chemical gear during an exercise held during the Operational Readiness Training Program 4. The two Airmen were among the almost 400 Airmen that deployed from Peterson Air Force Base for a week long exercise at Volk Field, Wis. The exercise is designed to prepare the Wing for the upcoming Operational Readiness Exercise, slated for June 2012. Story Page 4.

U.S Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

Wing deploys, trains

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - Approximately 400 Airmen from the 302nd Airlift Wing were recalled Sept. 18 and began arriving here at 2 a.m. to start the deployment process. But instead of going overseas, they were heading to Volk Field, Wis. for seven days to participate in the Operational Readiness Training Program or ORTP4, which meant operating in a simulated wartime scenario.

The wing is required to perform this training program every five years. ORTP4 is the beginning of the preparation for the Operational Readiness Exercise which occurs in June 2012 and the Operational Readiness Inspection which takes place in October of 2012. These are conducted to ensure the wing is ready to deploy and operate in a wartime environment.

The Airmen, who were in full battle rattle to include helmet, body armor, and web belt, packed themselves into awaiting C-130 aircraft that left Peterson AFB every 30 minutes. Prior to boarding the aircraft, administrative personnel checked identification cards, safety and intelligence briefings were conducted and deployment readiness paperwork and folders were examined. The goal was to make the process as realistic as possible.

The evolution was an enormous undertaking as hundreds of Air Force Reserve and Active Duty personnel had to be processed, and have themselves and their equipment on the ground approximately 800 miles away. The task was to have their remote work areas set up and ready for business in less than 36 hours.

The first two days of the ORTP4 concentrated on readiness training. Deployers donned chemical gear and learned how to protect assets such as vehicles and other equipment from attack. First aid, weapons familiarization, and post attack reconnaissance were all practiced, as well as how to decontaminate personnel and equipment. These activities were performed while being watched by Exercise Evaluator Team members, experts who would make sure each task was performed according to the specifications in the Airman's Manual.

Following training, the next two days were spent in a simulated war zone to ensure the Airmen could perform their duties in wartime conditions. This included missile attacks, treating injured personnel, fighting fires and repelling armed intruders. The highest level of mission-oriented protective posture levels were set for three to four hours both days, which meant all personnel were covered from head to toe in chemical gear and wearing gas masks.

"We are here to test our processes," said Col. Courtney Arnold, 302nd Airlift Wing vice-commander, and the commander of the simulated 114th Airlift Wing during the scenario. "We test our ability to work as a deployed wing."

One of the major processes tested was the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear portion of the training. This was overseen by the emergency management flight, who besides manning the CBRN cell, also manned two reconnaissance teams.

"The CBRN cell determines how long chemical agents will be present and where the hazards are based off wind speed, direction, and terrain. Recommendations for mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) levels and alarm conditions are then made based off current intelligence and reports from the CBRN cell," said Master Sgt. Stephanie Bonnin, chief, readiness and emergency management flight, 302nd Airlift Wing civil engineering squadron.

Besides testing processes and conducting training, another large part of the deployed scenario is finding problems that need to be addressed before the inspection starts.

"The biggest challenge (for the CBRN cell) was radio communication. Our recon teams basically lost all communication with the CBRN cell for the first scenario which increased our response time.

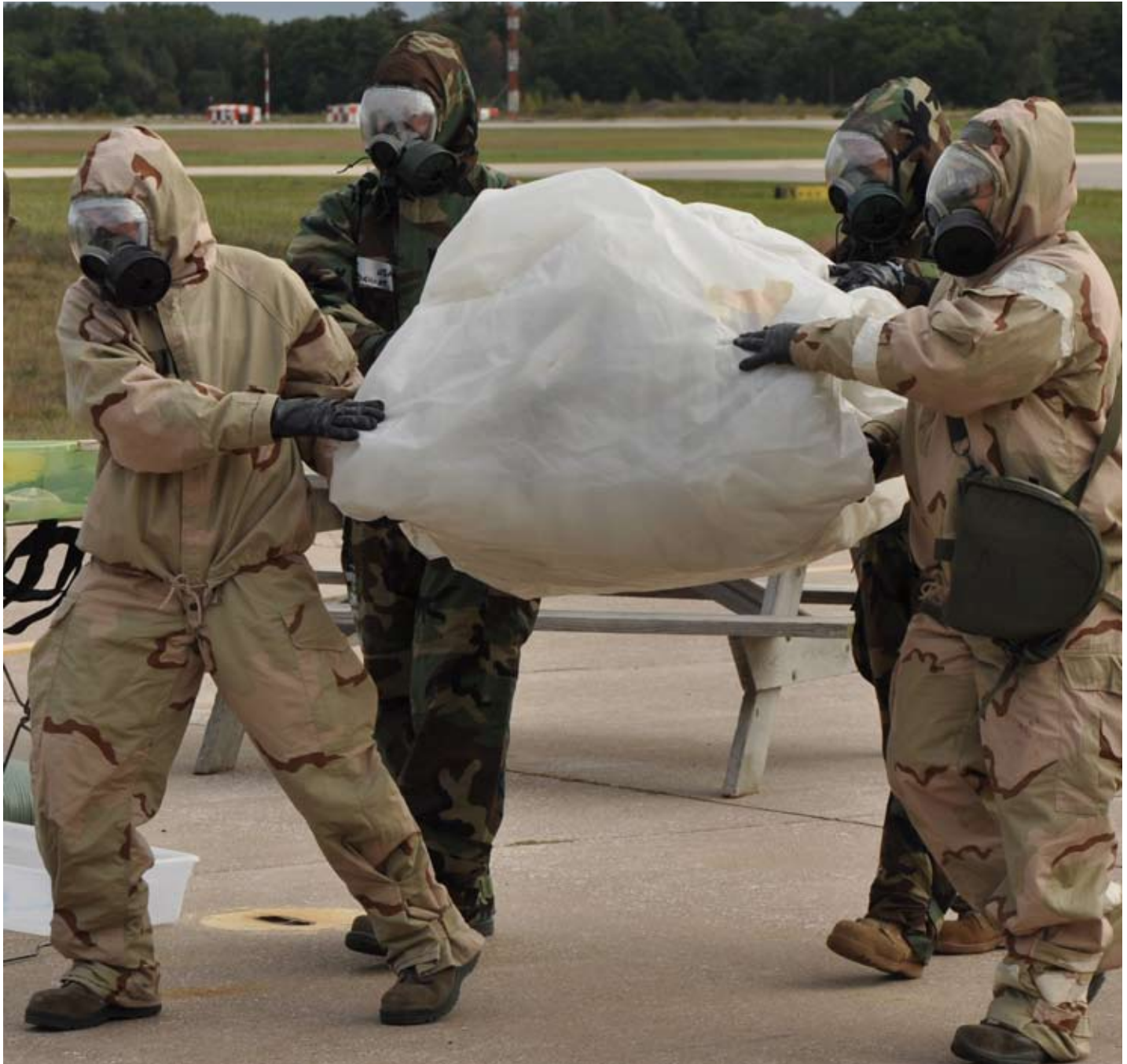
The CBRN cell needs information quickly to make assessments and recommendations to the emergency operations center and the installation control center. By the second scenario, most of the radio issues were rectified and response time improved," Bonnin said

The simulated overseas deployment is a chance to work as a team in an unfamiliar environment as evaluators answer questions and improve techniques.

"Our team did a great job, especially considering the number of ORTP 'rookies' we had on our team, me included," said Capt. Jennifer Alecci, Operations Flight Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron.

"We came away from ORTP 4 meeting our goal to teach our new members about the operational readiness inspection process outside the classroom and lessons learned specific to Volk Field. We learned exactly what we needed to know to make the operational readiness exercise in June an even better experience."

as it will fight



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Dan Butterfield

VOLK FIELD, Wis. Airmen from the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., practice clearing a simulated contaminated protective covering while in mission-oriented protective posture level four protective gear. This was just part of the training the approximately 400 Airmen from the 302nd participated in during Operational Readiness Training Program Sept. 18-24. The program also included classroom instruction and simulated war time scenarios. The goal was to ensure the wing was "battle ready."

BOTTOM LINE

ORE -- JUNE 2 TO JUNE 9

ORI -- OCT. 21 TO OCT. 29

BE READY!!

Some gave some

By Ann Skarban
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



*Dignity, honor, respect for the fallen.
Care, service and support for the families.*

That was the mission of three Air Force Reservists from the 302nd Force Support Squadron who deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del. February through August of 2011.

Services Journeymen Staff Sgt. Richard Crutcher and Senior Airmen Wendy Oregon and Kayla Penn volunteered for an Air Expeditionary Force deployment that would take them to Dover AFB to do an important job and would also offer a life-changing experience supporting Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations.

According to the Dover Air Force Base web site, the primary mission of Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations is to fulfill the nation's sacred commitment of ensuring dignity, honor and respect to the fallen and care, service and support to their families.

some gave all

While at Dover the three 302nd FSS Airmen quickly became part of the team holding specific jobs within AFMAO and made important contributions to ensure each returning service member and their family received the proper return, respect and care. During their six-month deployment 331 service members, including members of the Navy SEAL Team 6 who were killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan on August 6, returned through the AFMAO.

The deployed Air Force Reservists held duties such as dignified transfer support, dress and wrap and family support. A dignified transfer is the process by which, upon the return from the theater of operations to the

United States, the remains of fallen military members are transferred from the aircraft to a waiting vehicle and then to the Port Mortuary. The dignified transfer is not a ceremony; rather, it is a solemn movement

of the transfer case by a carry team of military personnel from the fallen member's respective service. A dignified transfer is conducted for every U.S. military member who dies in the theater of operation while in the service of their country. A senior ranking officer of the fallen member's service presides over each dignified transfer.

Staff Sgt. Crutcher was assigned as a driver for the dignified transfers. Describing his experience he said, "It was very honorable to help - to try to lessen the blow to the family and to make sure in the final stage of taking care that the uniform was perfect and to ensure the care and handling was right."

Penn, who amongst her many duties at Dover, was assigned as a transfer vehicle guide for several dignified transfers during her deployment. She noted the high level and number of meticulous details that were part of their comprehensive training to ensure every movement within the transfer was completed with utmost dignity and respect.

"It felt good to know they [the service member's families] really appreciate what we do. We knew our work was appreciated and meant a lot to them," said Penn.

"It was very honorable, and sad with family," said Oregon describing her experience at Dover. "I know I did something important. It was an honor to bring the fallen home and to their families."

After having this experience, Oregon is now thinking about a civilian career in mortuary affairs. Oregon worked with the team charged with preparing the fallen members for transfer to their final resting place. She

was awed with how every single detail within preparation from uniform and appearance to medals was handled.

The Reservists said that while at times the sadness and tragedy of this duty weighed heavily on their

minds, they were helped by the resiliency program offered at Dover. The gym, U.S.O. and counselors available gave them the assistance they needed to cope with the experiences they had and the difficult feelings they had. The Reservists said they became close with the entire team at Dover - close to those who were working together sharing this common experience.

All three said they would return to Dover to support this important mission if called upon again. They were proud of their service and proud to be part of our nation's dedication in ensuring each returning service member was brought home with the utmost dignity and respect.

Crutcher summed up his experience by saying, "For me, I learned standing up and doing something broadens you spiritually, and it does a lot for you to give something back when others have given their all."

Photo caption--Senior Airman Kayla Penn, a services journeyman assigned to the 302nd Force Support Squadron, served as a vehicle transfer guide in support of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operation at Dover Air Force Base Del. (Courtesy photo)

“For me, I learned standing up and doing something broadens you spiritually, and it does a lot for you to give something back when others have given their all.”

- Staff Sgt. Richard Crutcher
302nd Force Support Squadron

AF Reserve C-130 pilot gives Minnesota boy the gift of life

by Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Just what does it take to save a human life? Would you believe a simple bulletin board?

For Air Force Reserve Capt. Robert Wilson, the mundane act of getting up from his desk for a break would plant a seed in his mind. That seed would grow into the decision to provide a live-saving bone marrow donation, saving a seven-year-old Minnesota boy from death.

While at his civilian job in Oregon, Wilson remembered an article on a bulletin board in a break room that caught his eye.

"There was an article talking about how someone had donated bone marrow and saved someone else doing so," Wilson recalled. "I thought it was a neat, heartwarming story. Then I quickly went back to my day."

Tucking that article into the back of his brain, Wilson said soon after, he was donating blood at an American Red Cross facility in Portland, Ore. While filling out the blood donation paperwork, he came across a check box that asked if he would give consent for the technician to take an extra vial of blood. The information gained from the blood would then be added to the nationwide bone marrow donor database.

"I recalled instantly reading that story from before and I thought, oh yeah, that sounds like a good idea," he said. I checked the box, they took the blood, and that was all there was to it. Then I went about life."

While Wilson went about his daily routine, close to 1,800 miles away a child was suffering. Seven-year-old Alexander, or "A.J." Neppel of Apple Valley, Minn., had recently been diagnosed with aplastic anemia. The condition was leaving him unable to create his own red or white blood cells, and was restricting his blood from producing platelets, which allows the blood to clot. His worsening condition was not only taking a toll on him physically and mentally, but according to his mother Anne Neppel, the shock of learning her son had this condition was "overwhelming."

"When you looked at him, he looked healthy; he didn't look sick or act sick," Neppel said. "He had some subtle signs that I know now of what a person with aplastic anemia has. We had no clue what aplastic anemia was. It was overwhelming because he was so critically ill and

things snowballed quickly when (the doctors) found out he was sick."

The Neppels first began their son on a drug-therapy treatment they had learned about as a possible way to combat the aplastic anemia. After a short time, combined with much hope and prayer, it was found that the drug therapy was not effective. The doctors informed the family the only option for A.J. was a bone marrow transplant. Neppel said she, her husband and her daughter were all tested to see if they would be a match. A.J.'s sister was found to be a close match, but Neppel recalled how the idea of a transplant "just scared us."

"Everything you have to do to prepare for this transplant and the complications that come after the risks associated with doing this ... it's not something you take lightly," she pointed out. "There are so many things you have to take into consideration. I don't even think we truly knew what we were getting ourselves into."

Fortunately for the Neppels, they never had to make the decision of A.J.'s sister providing a donation. A perfect matching donor was located in Colorado.

"I get a phone call from the bone marrow place and they said there is a patient, a seven-year old boy who has this fatal condition and you have a strong potential to be a proper match for him. So I drove up to Denver and met up with people at the bone marrow center who did some additional tests," he said. "They asked me then to consider donating bone marrow then and now. They told me because of his condition, if I donated the bone marrow, it was possible he could make a full recovery - but it could also be a dramatic swing the other way."

According to Wilson, because of A.J.'s condition, it would give him a better chance if they took the bone marrow directly from Wilson's spinal cord.

"I was willing to accept this small risk to help him out. It didn't seem like that much or anything that required a lot of thought. If you think about it for a few minutes, it makes sense to go out and do it. I thought about it, did some research on the condition, and agreed to it," he said.

With the bone marrow extracted, it was quickly whisked away to an awaiting aircraft and flown to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minnesota. There, it was rushed to an already-medically prepped A.J. who was ready to receive the life-saving transplant.

Thinking back to the phone call she received of a perfect donor being found, Anne Nepl said she thought the family had received the "best news in the world" and that she knew A.J. "had a fighting chance."

After receiving the transplant, A.J. began a slow, but steady recovery. While the aplastic anemia seemed to be subsiding, the family was also

faced with additional news of two tumors found in and around A.J.'s brain. Nepl had left her job to care for A.J. full time, helping to continue the treatments by placing intravenous needles into her son or providing him fluids when his body was weak. The treatment continued, eventually shrinking the tumors, rendering them almost completely harmless. Even with A.J.'s improved condition, Anne said the family continued to deal with various medical issues and the emotional toll.

"I think we are still trying to get back into a normal life where we are not living day by day, worried about whether or not he's going to get sick again," she said. "Once he came home after the bone marrow transplant, he needed a lot of care in our home so I took that on and learned a lot about hooking him up to IVs and fluids."

A.J. continued his climb back to health. Meanwhile, Wilson wondered what had become of the boy he provided help to. A year after donating the bone marrow in 2009, Wilson had signed a consent form to the bone marrow registry, giving A.J.'s parents access to his contact information. Unbeknownst to Wilson, the Nepls had done the same, wanting to know more about the person who had saved their son's life.

"I thought it was pretty neat that somebody like that would want to help others," Anne said. "He sounded like a really amazing guy to me with all that he did."

Wilson remembered the first phone call with Anne Nepl in a different way.

"I remember I had some emotion and butterflies going on a little bit," he said with a chuckle. "We were both



Air Force Reserve Capt. Robert Wilson gives the gift of life to a seven-year-old boy, some 1,800 miles away. Capt. Wilson holds a photo of A.J., during one of his stays in the hospital.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Stephen Collier

pretty excited to talk to each other and we went right into how A.J. was doing, went into his whole lifestyle and A.J.'s family, including his sister."

Nepl learned about Wilson's connection to the Air Force and how her family's military connection brought them together on the phone.

"My dad was in the service too, so we had a little bit of a connection that way. To me it seemed like a huge sacrifice for him to make, but to him he made it sound like no big deal ... like he would do it for anyone. I truly admire those people who serve our country," she said.

The two talked and both agreed that he and A.J. should meet one day.

"I think (A.J.) wants to see the person that helped him and thank him," she said. "Thanking him face to face and having that connection with somebody I think would be amazing. I would love to continue our relationship with him and update him on how A.J. is doing. It's hard to describe how you feel and what do you say. There's no book for that."

Wilson said he hopes others will take away from his experience that it takes no effort at all to both donate bone marrow and save another human being.

"There is no commitment to putting your name on the bone marrow donation list," he said. "It was a positive thing for me and for A.J. There's also no commitment in finding out if you are a match for somebody. It's just like donating blood any other time. It's just that easy." And who knows, maybe the next bone marrow donor out there will see this story on a bulletin board.

Combat ‘Roos meet mission milestone

By Tech. Sgt. Peter Dean
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Combat ‘Roos are back in the fight, said former commander Lt. Col. Carlos Ortiz in his speech which was given during the 52nd Airlift Squadron’s stand up ceremony in October of 2009. But the ‘Roos aren’t just back, they’re back with a vengeance. After only two years and with numerous deployments and accomplishments under their belts, the 52nd Airlift Squadron became fully operational on Oct. 1, 2011.

On Oct. 3, 2009 a second flying squadron joined the ranks of the 302nd Airlift Wing, bringing an Air Force active duty/reserve association to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The association between the active duty’s 52nd AS and the Air Force Reserve’s 302nd AW is the ninth association for the Air Force that fuses together active duty and Guard or Reserve wings, maintaining, and flying the same aircraft, working towards one common goal, “Global Reach.”

The 52nd AS is now under the command of Lt. Col. Patrick Schlichenmeyer and fully manned and fully operational. With the guidance of the 302nd Airlift Wing, the 52nd AS has been able to lead or tie almost every statistic measured, said Schlichenmeyer.

“We have not only met but we have exceeded goals set forth, we have deployed eight months ahead of schedule, we actually have three combat deployments under our belts and one on the horizon,” said Schlichenmeyer.

“Because of Total Force Integration, we have the best maintenance in AFRC [Air Force Reserve Command], they’ve achieved three Black Letter Aircraft, and we have one of the best ops in the C-130 world,” said Schlichenmeyer. “With the experience that the Reserve brings to the table, we are able to upgrade our crews faster, fly more hours and prepare to deploy at a greater rate,” he added.



Members of the 52nd Airlift Squadron wear the 52nd AS legacy patch, which was adopted when the unit was activated in 1942.

“You get the experience of the Reserve wing and the flexibility of an active duty wing, that’s a combination you can’t beat.”

- Lt. Col. Patrick Schlichenmeyer
52nd Airlift Squadron, commander

Describing the 52nd AS and 302nd AW partnership Schlichenmeyer said, “This association is a Reserve wing taking on the active duty, treating us as their own, embedding personnel into a seamless work force, working together towards our nation’s goals and objectives.”

While working to achieve fully operational status, a new C-130 squadron operations workspace to support the association is under construction on the Total Force campus at Peterson AFB. A \$5.8 million, 11,000 square foot facility is slated to open in the spring of 2012 and will house both the active duty’s 52nd AS and Air Force Reserve’s 731st AS, providing them with a common work area to facilitate operations and training, completing the Total Force Integration between the units.

“You get the experience of the Reserve wing and the flexibility of an active duty wing, that’s a combination you can’t beat,” said Schlichenmeyer.

FAMILY CARE PLAN

DOD Instruction 1342.19, "Family Care Plans," was revised in May, 2011. The instruction, originally published in 1992, initially applied only to single-parent servicemembers. Beginning in 2008, dual-military couples with children were required to file such a plan. The policy now applies to:

- Servicemembers and civilian expeditionary work force members who have legal custody or joint custody of a minor child.
- Single parents.
- Dual-service couples with dependent family members under the age of 19.
- Servicemembers and expeditionary civilians legally responsible for others of any age who are unable to care for themselves in their absence.

Contact your first sergeants or commanders for more information.

DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM

Air Force Reserve Command has begun implementing the Defense Travel System at all units. The DTS Team from AFRC/FMF are scheduled to come to the 302AW and implement the program in February 2012.

Overview of what DTS is can be found @ <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/dts.cfm>

DTS is a fully integrated, electronic, end-to-end travel management system that automates temporary duty (TDY) travel for the Department of Defense (DoD). AFRC travel orders meeting DTS eligibility criteria will use DTS to the maximum extent possible. Those criteria are:

- Travelers must have a Government Travel Card
- Travel order will be for single status.
- Not on a mileage-only order
- The tour is less than 30 days in length
- DTS training sessions will be held for 302AW members during the February UTA.

TEAM PETE DUI SIGN

Peterson Air Force Base now has a sign posted at the entrance of all three gates to encourage members of Team Pete not to drink and drive. The signs also identify the unit that recorded the last DUI and the date of the event. Be safe, don't drink and drive!

MICROSOFT HOME USE

As an Air Force employee you are eligible to participate in Microsoft's Software Assurance Home Use Program. This program enables you to get a licensed copy of most Microsoft© Office desktop PC applications to install and use on your home computer.

- For up-to-date information on the availability of Home Use Program software, please visit <http://microsoft.com/licensing>.
- Enter your mil e-mail address and insert the following program code 281E76A768. Note: This program will only work with a legitimate .mil address and will only work once.

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.

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