

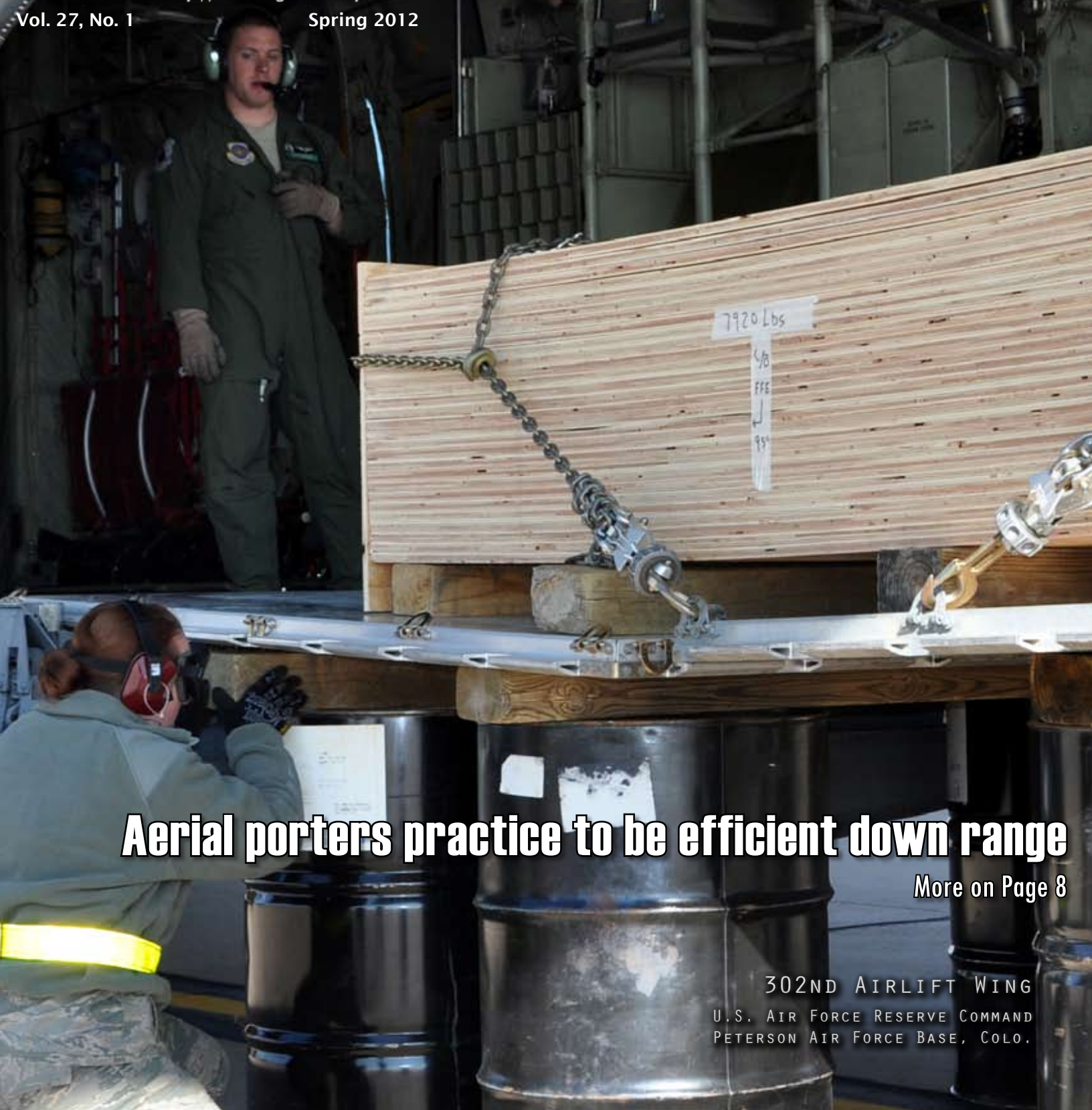
Heavy weapons training keeps 302nd SFS ready....See Page 5

FRONT  RANGE
FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 27, No. 1

Spring 2012



Aerial porters practice to be efficient down range

More on Page 8

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

FRONT &

\\ CENTER //

The stage has been set, the players identified, we've rehearsed and now we are ready to proceed. With only two Unit Training Assemblies before our Operational Readiness Exercise, we are now fine tuning our processes and making a detailed review of our individual readiness. It's the attention to every detail and competence in both core duties and ancillary training that will make an important difference in our level of success.

I cannot stress enough the need for each and every one of us to be fully prepared and well-practiced.

-Continue testing yourself. Practice getting into your Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear, and time yourself

-Continue reviewing your Airman's Manual. Know it well so that if you are pulled by an inspector, you can quickly locate the information you'll be tested on.

-Get clarification from your section supervisors on any questions you may have NOW. Waiting until we are in the exercise or inspection will be too late.

-Work with your unit training monitors to ensure your chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive (CBRNE), Self Aid Buddy Care and Information Awareness Certification are all in good standing and will remain valid during both the ORE and ORI.

-Treat your preparations for the upcoming ORE as if it were the ORI. This is our opportunity to show both Air Force Reserve Command and Air Mobility Command that we are professional, mission ready Citizen Airmen.

-And finally, be sure to communicate with your family and civilian employer. Ensure they understand the additional requirements that are associated with an ORE and ORI. Please express my sincere thanks to them for their understanding

and continued support of you and the Air Force Reserve.

Overall, our preparations and progress are on track. Thank you for your efforts and dedication throughout the preparation and soon to come, the execution of these important events.

Bring it on ... we're ready, and I look forward to our team's success!



Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

FRONT RANGE FLYER

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ORI READINESS

By Col. Michael Burns
302nd Mission Support Group commander
and ORI Emergency Operations Center director

It's been said, "If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it."

There is a tremendous amount of truth to this adage, especially for the 302nd Airlift Wing as we prepare for the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. I know one possible question on everyone's mind is, "Why are we putting ourselves through an ORI?"

The purpose of any ORI is to validate the combat readiness of our units and our ability to execute the "assigned" missions and tasks against a defined standard. Put simply, Air Mobility Command wants to ensure we can safely deploy while following the appropriate Air Force guidance. As with any job, our boss wants to know if we are good at what we are entrusted to do. We intend to show them we are better than good; we are the best, even under stressful conditions.

Although this inspection may not reflect how we currently operate, it is the way the Air Force expects us to fight in a hypothetical expeditionary scenario. Additionally, the inspection will give us experience with situations we could all be faced with in an expeditionary setting, to include changes in mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) levels, security breaches, conscientious objectors, protestors and more.

This inspection is an opportunity for AMC to tell us what we already know – the 302nd AW is ready to mobilize when called upon, is made up of professional and dedicated Citizen Airmen, and works together to overcome any challenge. During our deployment to Volk Field, Wis. in September, we learned the 302nd team has made tremendous strides toward being prepared for our ORI. The 302nd AW leadership had the opportunity to see first-hand the outstanding attitudes and sense of urgency of our people.

While I have no doubt we will prove once again the 302nd is the "best of the best," we do need to continue to hone our skills and focus.

We now find ourselves in the twilight hours with only a few Unit Training Assemblies to prepare. I have asked all Airmen supporting the ORI, both deploying and those providing home station support, to make the week before the ORI available for last minute preparation and refresher training. Most of us have been through several types of inspections and know that preparation is the key.

Now is the time for us to review our processes and procedures, to get familiar with the "Airman's Manual" (AFPAM 10-100) and continue the dialogue with other units who have recently undergone an ORI.

The truth of the matter is, it will be extremely challenging at times. However, I ask for your patience and cooperation as we do whatever is needed to prepare for and pass our inspection.



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

ON THE COVER



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

Air Force Reservist, Senior Airman Meagan Hasty, an air transportation specialist assigned to the 39th Aerial Port Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., positions a wooden beam on top of 55 gallon drums that will support the married pallets during a "Combat Method B" offloading training exercise held at Peterson AFB, Jan 8. This training simulates austere offloading conditions when cargo consisting of two or more pallets tied together need to be unloaded and a K-loader is not available.

It's never too late to follow your dreams; senior master sergeant becomes lieutenant

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

Most enlisted Airmen consider attaining the rank of senior master sergeant the capstone of a successful Air Force career.

Even though 1st Lt. John West, 34th Aeromedical Squadron, reached the rank of E-8 after 18 years, he still wanted to challenge himself. His ultimate dream was to become an officer in the Air Force. It was a tough decision, but one that made sense personally. According to West, moving from the near top of the enlisted ranks to the junior ranks of the officer corps afforded new opportunities.

"There are many differences. One of the huge ones and one of the reasons I wanted to get commissioned is it puts me out of my comfort zone," said West. "And, as the commander, (Col. Kathleen Flarity, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron) said, 'To grow you need to get out of your comfort zone.'"

West arrived at the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., two and a half years ago. He came from a unit with a policy that if you earn a commission, the member has to leave the unit. West did not want to leave the 302nd and Colorado Springs, so he did not pursue a commission.

"Then Colonel Flarity, who was commander of AES at the time, pointed out that was a commander policy.

So she encouraged me and actually told me about the program," said West.

"I'd already been an RN (registered nurse) for five years, so I was commissioned as a first lieutenant instead of a second lieutenant," said West. "Without Colonel Flarity it (the commissioning) probably wouldn't have happened."

For Flarity, it was an easy decision to help West achieve his goal for a commission.

"He has proven ability as an AES technician, he has leadership traits and is experienced," said Flarity.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing, West pinned on his 1st lieutenant bars and switched jobs and titles, from aeromedical technician to flight nurse.

"It helps and I can relate to enlisted issues better than someone who has never been enlisted. They don't see me as a brand new lieutenant, they see me as someone who has been in for a long time," said West.

"I believe his commitment is stronger, his commitment to the Air Force is stronger. He is going to make a good coach. He is given a lot of responsibility and he wants to succeed," said Flarity.

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force gets first-hand look at 302nd



(Above) The Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing hosted the Honorable Daniel B. Ginsberg, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs for a familiarization visit here, Feb. 8. Col. James Van Housen, 302nd Maintenance Group commander, crew chiefs, Tech. Sgt. Stephen Pearson, 52nd Airlift Squadron and Master Sgt. Manuel Ortega, 302nd Maintenance Operations Flight greet Ginsberg.

(Below) 302nd Airlift Wing Modular Airborne Firefighting System program manager, Lt. Col. Dave Condit briefs the Honorable Daniel B. Ginsberg, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, on the Wing's special aerial firefighting mission and gives him an up-close look at the U.S. Forest Service MAFFS unit. The 302nd AW hosted Ginsberg for a familiarization visit here, Feb. 8. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Peter Dean)



Heavy weapons training keeps 302nd SFS ready

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Peter Dean
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

"Range is hot!" exclaimed lead combat arms instructor Tech. Sgt. Christopher Shoales, 302nd Security Forces Squadron. And with that, members of the 302nd SFS locked their sights down range and unleashed a volley of rounds, shredding all that was in their path.

Members of the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd SFS spent their February Unit Training Assembly completing their annual heavy weapons qualification training. The two-day M240B and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) course began Saturday with one day of classroom training, where members demonstrated their ability to safely handle the weapons and react to misfires and malfunctions. Additionally, members were trained on the proper care and cleaning of each weapon, ensuring the weapons are fully functional for future use.



The frigid Sunday morning "range day" took the gunners to the Berkeley Airburst Range in Pueblo County, a full distance range about one hour south of Peterson Air Force Base.

"The 240 and 249 are hot rounds and have the potential to start small fires down range. Even though it's cold, we prefer to come out during this time of year, to prevent fires," said Shoales.

Upon arrival the gunners set up fighting positions and received safety briefings along with almost 2,000 rounds each to demonstrate their ability to engage metal silhouettes, simulating enemy combatants and an array of armored vehicles that typically are found in a hostile environment.



"Each gunner must demonstrate they are able to operate the weapon in the correct manner and engage the targets effectively," said Senior Airman Matthew Loveall, 302nd SFS, combat arms instructor.

The gunners work as a two-man team. The gunner operates the weapon and the assistant gunner acts as a spotter, directing the rounds on target, ensuring the M240B that is capable of unleashing 950 rounds per minute, has an effective range of 1,980 yards and is well-fed with ammunition.

"Being a full distance range, this is the most realistic training we can get," said Shoales. "We're firing at hard targets, not paper targets, giving our guys the training they need down range," he added.

Gunners may find themselves in numerous defensive situations especially during deployments where they may work escorting convoys, clearing buildings or standing watch as perimeter defense. Full distance ranges are designed to maintain confidence in the weaponry and in the gunners themselves.

(Clockwise from top) Senior Airman David East-ridge lights up the range with an M240B Machine Gun. Photo 2, Combat arms instructor Tech. Sgt. Steven Howell ensures that Senior Airman Nicolina Villani-Martinez follows all safety procedures as she qualifies on the M249 Machine Gun. Photo 3, Under the supervision of combat arms instructor Staff Sgt. Jose Medellin, 302nd Security Forces Squadron, 302nd SFS gunner, Airman Christopher O'Brien and 302nd SFS assistant gunner Senior Airman Kevin Adkins qualify on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

A family affair: father, da

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Collier
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Fathers and daughters often have a unique relationship. Some go fishing, others get ice cream. For Senior Master Sgt. James Smith and his daughter Senior Airman Erin Smith, it's always been about airplanes and camouflage.

Ever since she was a little girl, Smith, a flight medic assigned to the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, has known nothing but the military.

"I grew up in a military family so the military part was always imbedded into everything I did growing up, even to the point of doing pushups when I wrote on my hand," Smith jokingly recalled. "They [Smith's parents] talk all those acronyms at the dinner table and I used to get so lost. It's fun to talk to other military families and see the similarities. The dinner table is definitely a different environment now. And (my father) was very much a part of influencing my future military involvement."

Smith's parents married shortly after they both graduated technical school, working toward becoming Air Force maintenance technicians. While her mother separated from the service, her dad continued his career. After three years serving on active duty, James Smith transitioned to the Air National Guard in Arizona where he continued his maintenance duties on KC-135 aircraft.

"Before the 302nd, I was in a Guard unit in Phoenix," Smith, the 302nd Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight chief, said. "She's been coming out since she's been able to walk, coming out to family days and walking around the shop."

After graduating from college, Smith, affectionately known as "Jim" to those close to him, found better civilian work opportunities in Denver, moving him and his family to the Rocky Mountain region. He also found an instrument systems technician position with the 302nd Maintenance Squadron.

Erin could remember as clear as day being introduced to the world of C-130 maintainers within the 302nd Airlift Wing.

"We'd always come (to the base) and he'd always show us the aircraft. I remember growing up with his whole unit as well. So it's fun now to go (on temporary duty) with the people he works with that I grew up meeting,"

she said. "I went to several of the awards banquets and the Airman's Ball was really fun. I was really involved and we were really close growing up. I went through his shop to see what he did even though I never understood any of it."

Having that family pride and military connection instilled in her at such a young age makes it no surprise that she would eventually join the Air Force herself. As a sophomore attending the University of Colorado at Boulder, Erin was like many other 19-year olds: bored with school and looking for something fun and exciting to do. She said she always wanted to get her commission and become an Air Force officer as well as get involved in nursing, especially trauma. So when she started hearing from her dad about a new aeromedical evacuation squadron standing up at the 302nd AW, she became instantly intrigued.

"I thought it was really cool," she said. "Emergency room and trauma work had always interested me. I had heard about 'medivacs' but I didn't know too much about it except for the title."

And just as important, Dad approved.

"At that point, she had two years at CU Boulder already and she realized Boulder wasn't going to do it for her to get into nursing school," the elder Smith said. "At the same time, I heard about an opening in the 34th (AES) and it starting up. I thought that would be interesting for her. It was fortunate on the timing because she was interested in doing something different than going to school."

Erin was able to schedule an interview with Senior Master Sgt. Richard Buchanan at the 34th AES. After walking through the squadron and seeing the equipment, she was instantly hooked.

"I was amazed ... to me it looked like the world and exactly what I wanted to do."

With a possible new career in front of her, Erin turned to her most trusted source of advice: her father.

"He was completely excited for me to join," she remembered. "I think he tried to stay on common ground because he didn't want [me] to make any decisions because that is what he wanted me to do. He continued

ughter call 302nd home

to give me both the positives and negatives of joining. He was very supportive in anything that I wanted to do.”

However, Jim Smith said it was difficult to hold back the immense amount of pride he felt when his daughter approached him about joining the Air Force Reserve.

“I was very proud ... I think that’s one of the highlights of my military career when she told me she wanted to apply,” Smith said. “I brought her down for her interview and that was that. When she did her initial enlistment that was, by far, one of the proudest days of my military career for sure.”

While both Smiths serve on either side of the flightline, each has their own way of educating the other on life and the military. For Erin, she knows she’s fortunate to have her dad’s knowledge on leadership and the Air Force in general as she is a non-prior enlisted Airman. For Jim, he’s been given the chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at the feelings of today’s Airmen. He even gets to live vicariously through his daughter’s career, remembering what it was like to be a brand new Airman entering a new and exciting world.

“She definitely comes to me with challenges and that sort of stuff,” Smith said. “I may give her more advice than she wants, but certainly I have a lot of experience and she’s open to receiving it. But it’s also opened my eyes up a little bit. Hearing some of the stories from her and the challenges she’s faced from another side, I now know more about what’s outside of the maintenance career field.”

With 27 years of service under his belt, including numerous temporary duty assignments and two deployments since Sept. 11, 2001, Jim Smith has six years left of service to his country. As he approaches the last leg of his career, his daughter’s is just getting started as she expects to be deployed sometime during the next year. With the close father-daughter relationship they have, Jim Smith knows it will be a challenge with her so far away.

“We’re very close, so that will be difficult,” he admitted. “It will be a very good thing for her. I think when you come in for your training it can be easy to lose sight



The love of the military runs deep for Senior Master Sgt. James Smith and his daughter Senior Airman Erin Smith who are both 302nd Airlift Wing members. “I grew up in a military family so the military part was always imbedded into everything I did growing up, even to the point of doing pushups when I wrote on my hand,” said Senior Airman Smith. (Courtesy photo)

of why we’re really here and what our real mission is. The deployments and going out and taking care of the wounded or working on aircraft or whatever your job is; that’s really what we’re here to do. For first term Airmen through the seasoned veterans, those things help to reignite the passions of why we’re here. I think it will be an awesome thing for her.”

The younger Smith said she is proud of her father, to the point that it pushes her to see how far she can go in her own career.

“How do you really say just one thing about him? I’m really proud of him and it would be different without him for sure, but I know he’ll always be around. It’s probably the best feeling in the world to know the old-school values he instilled in me are still helping to push me forward as an Airman and serve.”

Erin still dreams of the day she could get commissioned as an officer. And she could think of no one better to pin on her “bars.”

“I would love for my dad to pin me on if I get commissioned,” she said. “Before I enlisted, we always had this joke that he would have to salute me, even though he has all these years of experience. I would love nothing more than for him to be there for that.”

39th APS practices to be efficient down range

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

Even with the right equipment, offloading supplies from the back of a C-130 down range can be quite a challenge. Then, when you take away a key piece of apparatus such as a K-loader, a self-propelled scissor lift which is capable of moving cargo into the back of an aircraft utilizing power rollers, it becomes a daunting task. Air Force Reservists from the 39th Aerial Port Squadron, and the 731st Airlift Squadron, along with active duty members from the 52nd Airlift Squadron, spent the morning of Jan. 8, preparing for just such a challenge.

Combat offloading procedures vary based on available unloading equipment, type of cargo and whether pallets are married together or in a container delivery system. For the men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing, the challenge on this unit training assembly day would be unloading married pallets, utilizing an offload procedure known as "Combat Method B."

Two pallets secured together, holding an oversize load is too large for a forklift to unload. "Combat Method B" is a procedure that utilizes a forklift as an anchor. The forklift is positioned behind the lowered ramp of the C-130 and chains are connected to both the pallet and the forklift. With eight, 55-gallon drums placed nearby, the C-130 with engines running, inches forward and the

forklift with its brakes locked acting as an anchor, allows the pallet to slowly inch out of the back of the C-130. As the pallet extends beyond the ramp, drums are placed to support the overhanging portion of the pallet. The procedure repeats itself until the pallet is completely out and supported solely by the 55 gallon drums.

Onboard loadmasters are in constant visual communication with the aerial porters on the flight line and constant audio communication with the flight deck.

"Besides safety, the main concern is communication," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Cooley, 39th APS air transportation specialist, and the off load crew chief. "We have to make sure everyone is on the same page."

The methodical procedure took approximately 20 minutes and once securely on the 55 gallon drums; the pallet was ready to be broken down and unloaded with a forklift. Supporting both airlift and aerial port missions, the members of the wing may be called upon to utilize combat offloading methods down range at forward operating bases that only have a landing zone and minimal equipment. Additionally, humanitarian airlift missions may take the wing to countries that are many times not properly equipped to offload large loads.

Chaplain's Corner

Courage: Being afraid and doing it anyway!

By Maj. Timothy Wilson
302nd Airlift Wing Chaplain

Leaders are not always the first to see an opportunity, but they are the first to act on it. They dare to seize the moment. Someone has to go first! Leaders realize if they do not conquer their fears, they are going to miss out on life. They would rather risk failure than live with the regret of not even trying.

David was a mere shepherd boy who was willing to go toe-to-toe with Goliath. Everyone was acquainted with the giant, the opportunity to face him was available to all. However, it was only David who stepped forward. David established his leadership through his courage, not by his rank or social standing. In fact, David would never have been discovered apart from his courage. His courage grew out of his deep faith commitment, which developed a high-risk tolerance over his entire lifetime.

Being afraid and then "doing it anyway" is the essence of courage. Courage calculates the risk, it is not foolhardy. It is fueled by deliberate choices concerning future

possibilities rather than letting imaginary fears of failure and embarrassment paralyze progress. People who refuse to move until all fear is gone will never move. Leadership is moving boldly in the face of uncertainty because of a certain faith in God and His willingness to help.

Courage is an essential requirement for effective leadership. Courage is also the gift that inspires those around us, helping them to move forward. David shares his secret for boldness, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid" (Psalms 56:3-4). Without courage life is a little more than a collection of "might have beens" and regrets.

When opportunities knock, consider David's action plan, "When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted ... the Lord will fulfill, his purpose for me." (Psalm 138:3, 8). Facing any giants? Be bold!



Visit us online at
www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



Defense Travel System is here!

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Collier
302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Wing members will begin using a new system to make travel arrangements and file vouchers for some of their travel needs.

The Defense Travel System, already in use by Active Duty, will provide Reservists with a new way of making their travel arrangements for flights, rental cars and lodging. Commonly known as DTS, the system will also give Reserve members a more efficient way to file their travel vouchers.

The types of vouchers that can be filed using the new system will include per diem status travel from Denver or outside the 302nd Airlift Wing's commuting area.

The DTS system should be integrated fully into the majority of Reserve travel by the end of September. Dale Mock, an Air Force Reserve Command DTS team member and financial management specialist, said DTS is restrictive right now, but "will get better."

"Moving to DTS is a cost savings for both the Air Force and the Department of Defense because the cost of doing our travel arrangements and vouchers in DTS is less," Mock said. "DTS also cuts down on manpower. The cost savings is the biggest driver for going to DTS."

Reservists will also reap the benefits of faster payout of travel vouchers.

"The selling point is that a Reservist will get paid for his or her travel within 72 hours."

To assist Reservists with DTS, order specialists within the wing will be trained as Organization Defense Travel Administrators. These ODTAs will be able to assist wing members with navigating the DTS system, booking travel arrangements and filing travel vouchers. Mock said the ODTAs will be the "help desk for DTS in your organization."

While Reservists can manage travel arrangements and file their vouchers through DTS, they will still be required to have their orders generated in the Air Force Reserve Order Writing System. When orders are created in AROWS, the system is set up to automatically link with DTS if those orders qualify for the system. After registering and setting up an account in DTS, Reservists will receive an automatically-generated e-mail indicating their orders are awaiting them in DTS. The Defense



Travel System will then allow Reservists to book their flights, make rental car reservations and file a travel voucher.

However, there are certain types of orders that DTS will not be able to process. They include:

- **Mileage-only orders**
- **Dual status orders**, affecting Air Reserve Technicians who may need to convert statuses during temporary duty
- **Orders beyond 30 days**
- **Orders with inactive duty training in conjunction**
- **Orders that conflict with underlying temporary duty or changing orders status**
- **Back-to-back orders**

Along with the more personalized control Reservists will have in making their travel arrangements, Mock stressed the increased responsibility members would now have.

"I can't emphasize enough that along with more unit control comes more personal responsibility on the member's part," Mock said. "What I try to get across to people is this: Change is inevitable. It's going to happen. While it may be a little more time consuming for you in the beginning, it's going to make all our lives easier in the long run."

Members can access the Defense Travel System on a CAC enabled computer at www.defensetravel.osd.mil.

IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR, WHAT CAN I DO?

By Lt. Col. Ratna C. Gupta
Staff Judge Advocate, 302nd Airlift Wing

This year is an election year and as a military member or federal government employee, it is likely you have questions about your involvement in the political process.

DoD Directive 1344.10 governs how military members (Active, Reserve, Guard, or retired) should conduct themselves in the political process. The Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees (Air Reserve Technicians fall under this rule when in civilian status), and governs participation in campaigns and elections as well. These concepts shouldn't be foreign to any of our 302nd Airlift Wing Air Force Reservists but in case this is the first time you are hearing about it, here are some basic rules to remember during an election year.

DO: Register to vote.

DO: Attend rallies or political meetings as a spectator, caucus as a voter, or participate in a campaign for a candidate in your personal capacity only.

DO NOT: Participate in any political activity in uniform.

DO NOT: Participate in any of the activities during duty hours (unless you are on leave).

DO NOT: Give your rank and title/position to endorse a candidate or trash another. Military members cannot make public political speeches or serve in any official capacity in partisan groups, campaigns, or conventions.

DO NOT: Hand out flyers, brochures or display bumper stickers, signs, etc. at your workplace. Do place tasteful bumper stickers or signs in your car window (subject to base rules--check your base regulations).

DO NOT: Talk with subordinates about who you are voting for, or openly tell them how to vote. Do not endorse specific candidates within ear shot of them.

DO NOT: Defame or use inappropriate language against the current Commander in Chief even if you disagree with policy calls or legislation.

DO NOT: Use the government e-mail systems or internet for political activity and do not communicate to other members of the military or civilians regarding a candidate for office.

DO: Remember that the same rules apply to social media including e-mail, Twitter and Facebook. Use good judgment and common sense in all you do.



Why? As a Military Reservist or civilian, you work in the Executive Branch (reports directly to the President) and therefore, we must remain non-partisan even if you feel a certain way. It undermines the legitimacy of our armed forces if we begin to openly and publicly criticize in our official capacity our current or future Commander in Chief.

DO: Know that the rules for civilian employees are slightly different and they are permitted to speak at events in their personal capacity, distribute literature, manage campaigns, or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups in their personal capacity. For Reservists, the DOD rules are more restrictive so make sure you follow the more restrictive rules of what Reservists can and cannot do.

What if you have a personal blog? As long as your blog is written in your personal capacity and not with government resources, and not shared with others in the workplace you may be able to post your views there but tread carefully. If other military members readily know this is your blog and take it as an endorsement, you may have violated the DoD directive.

Additionally, if you are having private conversations with your friends and relatives and co-workers on issues, policies, etc., it may be okay but keep in mind subordinates are always listening and it is not appropriate to discuss politics in the workplace and certainly is not appropriate to say disparaging things about others.

Always remember, "if it feels funny" or "not so right," then you probably shouldn't be doing it or you should ask your legal office. You should participate in the political process but just keep in mind some basic rules of engagement so you don't end up being the news or an example of what not to do. As military members, I urge you to exercise sound judgment and common sense during this upcoming political season and if you have questions, do not hesitate to ask.

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.

eBENEFITS

eBenefits is a portal that serves as a central location for Veterans, Service Members, and their families to research, find, access, and manage their benefits and personal information. For example, you will be able to view how much of your Post-9/11 GI Bill Education benefits remain, details on your current and past school enrollment and confirm school enrollment online. Students using the Montgomery GI Bill or Reserve Educational Assistance Program can now confirm monthly school enrollment using this online tool. Log in or register for a Premium eBenefits account for access.

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits-portal>

RETIREMENT PAY CALCULATOR

Citizen Airmen can calculate their retirement pay by using this link

https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/processes/form/fn/rcalc/kw/14276/r_id/10016

If you require assistance with an active duty retirement pay calculation, please contact the Total Force Service Center - Denver at 1-800-525-0102.

PRE-DEPLOYMENT/TDY

Don't miss out on benefits and support available to you and your family. Members on temporary duty or deploying for 30 or more days are required to participate in a pre-deployment briefing. Members can satisfy this briefing requirement by either visiting the 302nd Force Support Squadron customer service area in bldg. 895 or by receiving this briefing from the 21st Space Wing on the first and third Monday of the month, at 1 p.m. in bldg. 350. Special offers to deployers may include free oil changes and child care.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Primary elections have started, and you can now easily vote from stateside or abroad. Go to <http://www.fvap.gov/map.html> to do any of the following:

- 1 - Register to vote (or check on/update your registration)
- 2 - Get your absentee ballot
- 3 - Track your ballot

If you have voting questions contact your commander appointed Unit Voting Assistance Counselor (UVAC). The 302 AW UVAOs are Maj. James Bishop, Kallece Quinn or 1st Lt. Tanas Estrada

TUITION ASSISTANCE

The Department of Defense recently made it a requirement that all institutions participating in the Military Tuition Assistance program must have a memorandum of understanding with the DoD. The policy applies to all institutions, accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, enrolling Title X active duty military members using DoD military TA dollars to assist in the payment of their education. This includes schools operating on and off military bases and institutions delivering courses through various modalities to include classroom instruction, distance education (i.e., Web-based, CD-ROM, or multimedia) and correspondence courses. A list of current participating institutions is located at <http://www.dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx>



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302nd Airlift Wing

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
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For the Family of:



Invite your civilian employer to come fly the friendly skies
302nd AW Employer Appreciation Day
July 13, 2012



Mark your calendar, it's on again. This year's 302nd Airlift Wing Employer Appreciation Day is scheduled for July 13. Employer Appreciation Day is an opportunity for 302nd Airlift Wing Air Force Reservists to nominate their civilian employer to experience the Air Force Reserve first-hand. Employers will experience a thrill of lifetime; their day will include a 302nd AW mission brief, a tour of the 302nd facilities, lunch and the opportunity to experience flight on a mighty C-130 "Herc." To nominate your boss, complete the application located at <http://www.302aw.afrc.af.mil> and return it to the 302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office in person or via e-mail at 302aw.pa@us.af.mil

