

THE Airstream

★ 2009 RODEO ★



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August 2009

Volume 25



FROM THE TOP

Wing commander looks forward to Military Ball, Family Day

Col. Karl McGregor
910th Airlift Wing Commander

I know we've been consumed with all things air show over the last several months, so I wanted to take a moment and remind the wing that we have some other events planned as well. During the September UTA, we'll have Maj. Gen. James Rubeor, the 22nd Air Force Commander, visiting the air station. I expect he'll be out and about the work sections looking for constructive input and views. On Saturday, we'll have a wing commander's call so that he has an opportunity to speak to the entire wing. Saturday night, the Military Ball will be held at the Metroplex in Liberty with about 400 members of the wing, local community, distinguished visitors, and retired Maj. Gen. James W. Graves as our speaker. Also, we hope to provide care for the children

of the Military Ball participants at the fitness center with an overnight stay and some fun activities. On Sunday, we will have a consolidated Family Day, with a variety of events, such as the family walk and run, fastest runners on base race culminating in a centralized picnic. I expect the October UTA to return to normal; however, on the 24th and 25th there will be an enlisted workshop in the Pittsburgh area geared toward the newest members of our team. My intent is to provide early career and life guidance through presentations by senior mentors and experts. In addition, the venue holds great opportunities for networking and team building.

As we enter the tail end of summer, I'd like to make a pitch for everyone to make time, get out there and play. Take advantage of the great activities available in the local area, from biking to kayaking to running, there's just enough time left and plenty of venues. Life is short; enjoy your health and family, friends and coworkers.



Col. Karl McGregor

Chaplain: be grateful to be alive, 'troubled guest on dark earth'

Chaplain (Capt.) William E. Mullins
910th Airlift Wing Chaplain

"I want to try to put myself back together." Have you ever found yourself saying this? Maybe you've been through a particularly difficult ordeal or just feel broken, not quite whole. Two summers ago, I read "The Holy Longing: the Search for a Christian Spirituality" by Ronald Rolheiser. The book starts with a poem by Johann W. Von Goethe, nothing quite prepared me for this poem entitled "The Holy Longing," here is an excerpt:

*... and finally, insane for the light, you are the butterfly and you are gone.
And so long as you haven't experienced this: to die and so to grow, you are only a troubled guest on the dark earth.*

Rolheiser's book was like a bolt of lightning careening across my life's landscape. I read this book while spending many hours in a hospital waiting room during my father's prolonged illness and eventual death. God knew precisely the deep and gaping hole that was beginning to form in my heart. I was hollow inside.

What Rolheiser helped me to see that my hollowness, the gaping wound of my heart, the restless desires and the bitter pain I felt was part of this dark and holy mystery called the spiritual life. I was alive. My soul was awake. Somehow, somehow, by the grace of God I felt so grateful for life, for faith, for family—as I watched my



Chaplain (Capt.) William E. Mullins

dad die, as I watched him become "insane for the light."

I was totally surprised by the gratitude I felt. I knew the pain; I knew the bitterness of realizing that my dad's life was one that still had so much more living to do, yet it was the grace, the quiet peace I felt that stopped me in my tracks.

Growing up, Dad had taught me what a northern copperhead snake looked like, this was valuable knowledge given the fishing and camping we would do together. During his illness in Dayton, Ohio, my daughter Eleanor and I went hiking at

Glen Helen park. The hiking trails offered there plummet down ravines, slowly meander around creek beds and suddenly lead you into dense thickets, which instantly open into sunlight pockets, deep in the forest. The hike is gently jarring in its variety of scenery.

Eleanor and I went "native." The trails no longer mattered. We waded in the creek. We ran headlong down wooded hills and climbed over the fallen trees that formed miniature bridges down the ravine.

While clambering over a particularly large, fallen tree, Eleanor froze and pointed at one end of the tree. Sitting quite sedately, coiled loosely in the morning light's gaze was a northern copperhead. I slowly and gently took Eleanor's hand, lifted her from the log and we slowly moved backwards while never taking our eyes off of the snake. I could feel her little heart beating frantically in her chest. We held one another and stared at the snake as time stood still.

I said, "Eleanor that is a copperhead." Her reply, "are they venomous?" "Yes," I said.

And in that moment I heard my dad whisper, "take care." Though, he was miles away in a hospital room unable to lift his arms, I felt my dad's powerful presence warning us of danger. As I held my daughter's hand, I was so grateful to be "a troubled guest on the dark earth." The danger of the copperhead, the beauty of the ravine and the tender hand of Eleanor nearly broke my heart that day. I felt put together that day; whole, alive and eager to run the race.

AIRMEN AT WORK



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Lisum

910th Airmen help improve communications at Aviano Air Base

Tech. Sgt. Howard Dukes and Staff Sgt. Don Adkins, ground radio communications specialists assigned to the 910th Communications Flight, test the Threat Warning System (TWS) 282 Loud Voice and Siren System at the Maniago Range approximately five miles outside of Aviano Air Base, Italy, July 20, while on annual tour with the 603rd Air Control Squadron (ACS) based at Aviano AB. The TWS 282 is an early warning system used during deployments by the 603rd ACS to alert troops to everything from incoming mortars to inclement weather conditions.

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On the cover...

Youngstown Air Reserve Station's 2009 Air Mobility Rodeo team stands ready to compete in the biennial Air Mobility Rodeo held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., July 19 to July 24, 2009. U.S. Photo illustration and design by Mr. Eric White

Thunderbirds reward local hero's soaring community spirit

Senior Airman Brenda Haines
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Aug. 7, 2009 was not an ordinary day for Jimmy Sutman of Youngstown, Ohio. Strapped into a U.S. Air Force Thunderbird F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, Sutman flew for approximately one hour, reaching a height of 12,000 feet and nine times the force of gravity.

This flight was a reward presented to Sutman for the way he lives his life.

Sutman once was an intern at a television station earning moderate wages. In the pursuit of extra income, Sutman, who has a communication arts degree, took a substitute teaching job at a local public school for children and adults with disabilities. Besides a financial reward, this opportunity transformed his career path—and his life—dramatically.

"I fell in love with (working with the mentally challenged) and decided to change my career choice," said Sutman, the founder of Iron and String Life Enhancement Inc. (ISLE), a business that serves mentally and physically disabled adults.

This vocation led Sutman to dedicate his life, both personally and professionally, to community service.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Air Demonstration Squadron selected Sutman as a "hometown hero" because of his exceptional service to his community.

The Thunderbird's Hometown Hero flight program was designed to highlight local community members who have given of themselves to better their communities.

"Our Hometown Hero flight program is a way we recognize everyday Americans for their contributions to their neighborhoods, communities and country."

said Capt. Jason McCree, the public affairs officer for the Thunderbirds. "This is our opportunity to show off the same sacrifices and service that people in the local community exhibit as well."

Sutman said his career path changed completely while working a night shift at WKBN-TV Channel 27 News is his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio. Coincidentally, a reporter from WKBN-TV will have the opportunity to fly with the Thunderbirds as part of the team's media flight program.

"I was looking for extra income during daytime hours," said Sutman. "My aunt suggested I work as a substitute teacher at the Leonard Kirtz School."

Sutman had a cousin with Down syndrome, so he said he was intrigued about the opportunity to work with the adults at the school and accepted the position.

During his time there, he interacted with his students' families and caretakers.

"I had many parents tell me they hadn't been on vacation in 20 years because their son or daughter was afraid to fly," he said. "A lot of the parents were also concerned about who would care for their son or daughter when they passed away."

Sutman said he recognized the absence of community services for these families and decided to leave his job and venture out on his own.

"I used my savings and retirement money to buy my first house in 1998," he said.

That first house has now transformed into 15 sites, 180 employees, more than \$1 million in contracts and three additional businesses.

ISLE now includes Touch the Moon, an old fashioned penny candy store, and two non-profit

organizations, Purple Cat and Golden String Inc. His wife, Jill, manages Purple Cat, which provides a creative outlet and day programming for clients while Golden String Inc. provides recreation and socialization activities.

In addition to the business aspect of ISLE, Sutman dedicates his life to his clients. He said that he has a personal attachment to each one of them.

"I'm delighted to work with my clients," said Sutman. "At least once a week, I stop and pick up Joe Gallagher, my first client and the oldest person living in Mahoning County with Down syndrome, and take him to lunch."

Sutman said it is humbling to be nominated for the Hometown Hero flight.

"I'm very, very honored," he said. "I don't feel that I'm deserving. When people are in need, you help. It's what we're supposed to do. I'm extremely excited to be recognized by the Air Force, the real heroes. What an honor to get to fly with them."

Community members, like Sutman, epitomize the message of the Thunderbirds, which is every person, whether in the military or not, can make this country a better place through humble service above all.

"My work has taught me what is really important in life," he said. "Giving is living and I instill that in every one of my employees."

Maj. Tony Mulhare, a pilot and the narrator with the Thunderbirds, and Jimmy Sutman, the Thunderbirds Hometown Hero flight recipient, are photographed moments after landing at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station Aug. 7. Mr. Sutman, a Youngstown native, was awarded the flight for his commitment to the mentally and physically challenged adults of the Mahoning Valley.



Photo by Mr. Eric White

910th Reservists unite to save a life



Airman 1st Class Megan Tomkins
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Every day, there are accidents and incidents in which firefighters and medics have minutes to respond, determining life or death. With their quick reaction times, they save countless lives. However, there are occasions when people with less extensive training play key roles in helping to save lives.

This was the case for Sgt. Charles Wallace Evans, the afternoon shift supervisor of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station Department of Defense security officers.

Sergeant Evans stopped by the break room in the Security Forces building while on a break during his shift May 4. He was talking to one of his co-workers and was about to go outside to the break area to smoke.

"I was having dinner when Charlie Evans walked in," said Master Sgt. Bill McAdoo, the supervisor of the 910th Security Forces Squadron. "He started to ask 'What...' and dropped over. I got to him as quick as I could."

At that same moment, Staff Sgt. Tom Withem, a 910th Security Forces patrolman, was walking by the break room. Sergeant McAdoo called him over to help move Sergeant Evans to a clear area.

They immediately had another person passing by call the fire department and attempted to get Sergeant Evan's vitals.

This proved difficult to do. Sergeant McAdoo said he and Sergeant Withem tried to give Sergeant Evans mouth-to-mouth at the same time and almost knocked heads together. They then worked together performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Sergeant Evans.

"I was thinking this is nothing like it was in training," said Sergeant McAdoo.

The emergency medical technicians arrived four minutes later. They got Sergeant Evan's heart started again and took him to Trumbull Memorial Hospital in nearby Warren, Ohio.

"The fire department arriving in four minutes was key," said Sergeant McAdoo. "Everyone was in the right place at the right time. Had it been a minute later, he would have been by himself in the smoke area. We wouldn't have known ... God must have something really special (in the future) for him."

Sergeant Evans said he doesn't remember too much of what happened that day. He found out what took place after he awoke in the hospital.

"It felt like sand was being poured on me," said Sergeant Evans. "My heart quit twice. If it had been three more minutes, I wouldn't have made it."

He now has a pacemaker and defibrillator connected to his heart. He has also quit smoking and even though he can't do as much as he used to, he said he is very thankful just to be alive.

"I want to thank everyone," said Sergeant Evans. "If it hadn't been for Sergeant McAdoo and Sergeant Withem ... if it hadn't been for them, I wouldn't be here."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Megan Tomkins

Sgt. Charles Wallace Evans, the afternoon shift supervisor of the YARS Department of Defense security officers, talks with Master Sgt. Bill McAdoo, the supervisor of the 910th Security Forces Squadron, about the quick thinking and action that saved Evans' life when he suffered a heart attack May 4.

Base Airmen wrangle with more than 100 teams at 2009 Rodeo

Senior Airman Brenda Haines
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 40 Reservists with the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) participated in the 2009 Air Mobility Rodeo at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., July 19 to July 24.

The Rodeo, a biennial airlift competition sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command, gathers wings from active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and units from around the world, to test and improve airlift tactics in a competitive environment.

The YARS team, comprised of Citizen Airmen from the 76th Aerial Port Squadron, the 757th and 773rd Airlift Squadrons, the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 910th Security Forces Squadron, competed against more than 100 teams with approximately 2,500 participants.

The competition, which can be traced back to 1956, tests the flight and ground skills of aircrews and includes exercises such as airdrops, aerial refueling, aerial port, aeromedical evacuation, physical fitness, security forces and other critical war-fighting skills. It also provides valuable joint training for all participants.

An important long-term benefit of this competition is increased cooperation between air mobility forces from several nations. Collectively, the ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures that enhance air mobility operations. Spirited competition furthers that aim, while strengthening the mutual goals and bonds of friendship developed between competing teams, according to the event Web site.

Although the YARS team did not return home with a trophy this year, it was not for lack of effort. The team prepared for several months by practicing their tactics and polishing the competition aircraft from nose to tail.



Photo by Senior Airman Clint Kline

Members of the YARS Rodeo team compete in the fit-to-fight portion of the 2009 Air Mobility Rodeo at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., July 23. The event pits more than 100 teams from around the world against each other to test their critical war-fighting skills

NEWS

910th, 911th announce Enlisted Workshop dates

The 910th and 911th Airlift Wings have scheduled the 2009 Enlisted Workshop to take place at the Radisson Hotel, Pittsburgh, Oct. 24 and 25.

Junior enlisted Airmen are highly encouraged to attend this informative event.

Some of the topics planned for discussion include career progression, the Air Force "Fit-to-Fight" program and healthy living. Mentoring will be a topic of discussion. Airmen are also encouraged to participate in networking opportunities made available through the workshop.

Interested Airmen should contact their first sergeant to sign up for the event.

Base to host Family Day

The base Family Day for servicemembers and their families is scheduled for Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hangar 295.

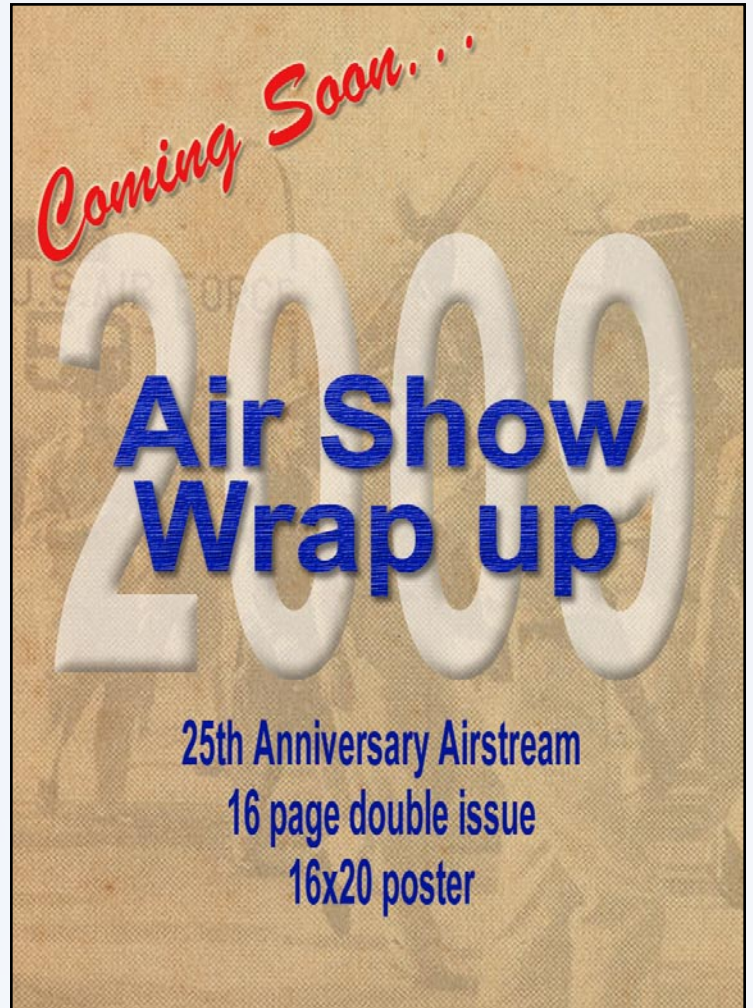
This free event will feature a posed photo of YARS Reservists and civilians in the shape of a C-130H aircraft.

The festivities will include a barbecue lunch, an honor guard demonstration, 50/50 raffle, family-themed pentathlon, coat drive, clowns, face painting, a book fair and community support agencies.

The event will begin with a commander's call at 8 a.m. Throughout the day there will be various activities at the base club and fitness center.

Family Day is being held in conjunction with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

The Family of the Year and the Alberini Memorial Scholarship recipients will be announced during the event.



2009 Military Ball to honor Air Force military heritage

The 910th Airlift Wing's Military Ball, "Reminiscing", is planned for Sept. 12, at the MetroPlex Hotel in Girard, beginning with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Retired Maj. Gen. James W. Graves, the former Assistant to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Reserve Matters, is slated to be the keynote speaker.

Guests can enjoy musical entertainment by local band, "Guys Without Ties."

Attire for the ball is as follows:

Officers - mess dress

Enlisted - mess dress or semi-formal

Civilian males - suit and tie

Military females - option of uniform or evening gown

Civilian females - appropriate evening gown

Evening gowns must be below the knees. Colors suggested to honor our military heritage are black, white, red and navy blue, but are not required.

A local photographer will be available during the event to take photographs of couples.

This event is sponsored by the 910th AW's Airman's Council. See your first sergeant for more details.

**You are cordially invited to the
2009 Military Ball
"Reminiscing"**
Sponsored by the 910th AW Airman's Council

September 12, 2009
MetroPlex Hotel in Girard
Cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices:
Airmen - \$20 per person
WCOs - \$30 per person
SNCOs - \$40 per person
1st O-4 - \$45 per person
O-5 and O6 - \$50 Per Person
Retirees: \$35 Per Person

**Tickets for civilian dates will cost the same as the
military member sponsoring them.**

See your first sergeant for details and tickets.

Sold out

NEWCOMERS

PROMOTIONS



Capt. Lisa Brown, 910th Medical Squadron
 Capt. Katie Nason, 910th Medical Squadron
 Master Sgt. Cathy Ludington-Burgess, 910th Mission Support Group
 Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mason, 910th Airlift Wing
 Tech. Sgt. Franco Russo, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Kalis, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Kevin Weichel, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Senior Airman Phillip Blackwell, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Senior Airman Cassie Chargualaf, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Senior Airman Andrew Coggins, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
 Senior Airman Brian Davis, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
 Senior Airman Patrick Kaminowski, 910th Services Squadron
 Senior Airman Peter Nowacki, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Senior Airman Earl Page, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Senior Airman Dwayne Shephard, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Senior Airman William Souders, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Senior Airman Brandon White, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Airman 1st Class Matthew Skocz, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Airman 1st Class Pierre Wearren, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
 Airman Timothy Hammonds, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Airman Sophie Maloy, 910th Medical Squadron
 Airman Nicholas Pshock, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron



Pamela Fitzgerald, 910th Mission Support Flight
 Nicholas Ladisa, 910th Mission Support Flight
 Richard Lawton, 773rd Airlift Squadron
 Lafayette Smith Jr., 910th Airlift Wing



Paul Yost, 910th Services Squadron



Gregory Bell, 910th Maintenance Squadron



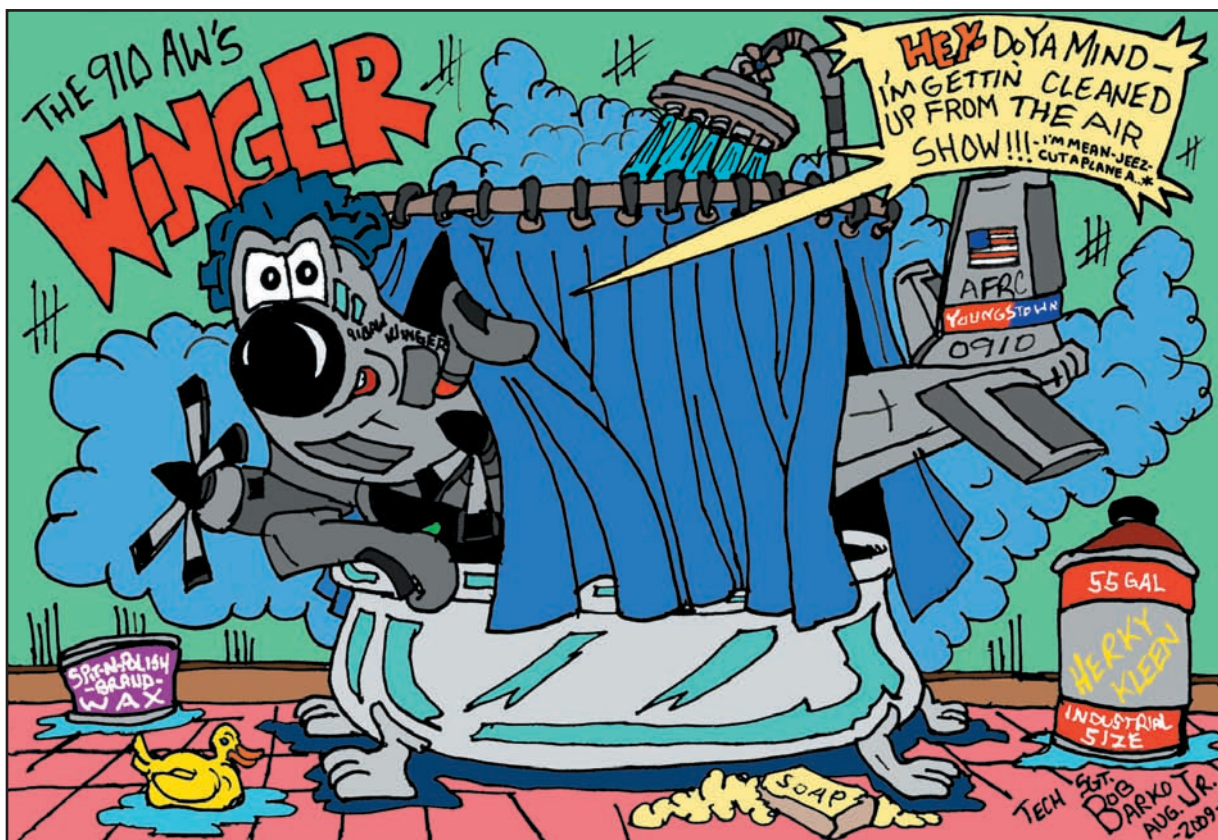
Adam Ayers, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Curtis Kennedy, 910th Force Support Squadron
 Kirk Johnson, 910th Maintenance Operations Flight
 Dustin Trummer, 910th Medical Squadron



Jessica Jury, 910th Medical Squadron
 Megan Tomkins, 910th Airlift Wing



Tyechia McBride, 910th Force Support Squadron
 Nicholas J. Pshock, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Heather Sorg, 910th Airlift Wing



Editor's Note: Originally published in the September 2008 Airstream. Revised and reprinted for the 2009 Air Show and Open House.

910th firefighters feel the heat



Photo by Airman 1st Class Megan Tomkins

Citizen Airmen firefighters assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron, participate in a simulated aircraft fuel fire exercise at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station burn pit July 12. This exercise is an annual requirement and helps provide the Airmen with the experience and proficiency needed to control various fire situations. The "burn pit" contains a propane-fueled aircraft frame that can burst into flames at the flick of a switch controlled by the exercise supervisors. These controlled burn exercises take place several times a year. The next burn is scheduled during the month of October 2009.



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