

THE Airstream

*910th Airlift Wing
Citizen Airman
returns
from
U.S. Congress
to
C-130 flight deck*



FROM THE TOP



Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer
910th Airlift Wing Commander



Commander looks ahead to clear skies, high flying

Hello and welcome to the April 2011 UTA! I certainly hope that Spring has sprung and that we're done with the white stuff for at least six months! This past winter was unusually hard and impacted our flying hours and safety program as we lost quite a few sorties and had some slips and falls. Hopefully, we've turned the corner and have some better weather in our future!

We're more than halfway through FY11 and as I write this column, we still do not have a budget. I know the Continuing Resolutions have played havoc on many of us as we are constantly shifting funds, re-allocating people and resources all while trying to complete the mission. The Command (and our) priorities are supporting the overseas contingency operations, executing the flying hour

program, ensuring our personnel are prepared for their deployments and finally, making sure our SORTS and AFSC training opportunities are maximized.

I know our Unit Training Assemblies are usually pretty busy, but if you have to figure out how to balance your time, think of these priorities and align yourself (and your training) with them, and you're on the right track!

We had a great recognition program at the March UTA; I sincerely appreciate all those individuals who raised the bar with their performance, those supervisors who submitted packages on their deserving Airmen and Chief Rhoades and those that worked the program throughout the year. Thanks for all you do to make the 910th Airlift Wing a world class organization. L+10

End sexual harassment: educate, address, report, prevent

Lt. Col. Kritstin Damigella
910th Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity

The Department of Defense's definition of sexual harassment is: "A form of sex discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's job, pay or career; or submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person; or such conduct interferes with an individual's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment."

The Department of Defense and Air Force policy on sexual harassment is clear. My stance is crystal clear: zero tolerance. There is no room for behavior that affects an individual's performance and, ultimately, our mission. It is every Servicemember's responsibility to ensure inappropriate behavior does not occur.

If we all take responsibility, then there should not be any complaints or behavior that could be perceived as sexual harassment. All leaders in this organization are responsible for cultivating an environment free from sexual harassment and should be proactive by making sure all members understand the policy, assess their own behavior and confront inappropriate behavior when it occurs. All members should take action, address offenders directly, document and seek assistance within the chain of command. If concerns are not being addressed or resolved, assistance from the EO is available.

Sexual harassment can happen to anyone. Any

time there is interpersonal interaction, whether in a one-on-one setting or in a group setting, there is an opportunity for inappropriate or unprofessional behavior. This inappropriate or unprofessional behavior may not fall within the confines of sexual harassment, but left unchecked, it could lead to diminished sensitivity which could lead to further inappropriate behavior, even sexual harassment. For example, when people use sexual innuendos during briefings or presentations, it diminishes the seriousness of the situation and may lead others to think that it's ok to use those types of references or to make sexually-based remarks. However, in a professional workplace, sexual references, gestures and innuendos are not acceptable.

The solution? Reflect on your briefings and presentations before you brief. Ask yourself if they are in alignment with Air Force policy and the high standards that we are all expected to follow. Another good technique is to have someone else review your briefing to ensure it is appropriate. There are plenty of ways to incorporate humor that don't include using inappropriate language or innuendos.

Sexual innuendos, comments or jokes, repeatedly contacting or pursuing someone for a date, trying to get constant access or exerting power over someone, inappropriate touching, invading someone's personal space, obscene or offensive e-mails, sexy or "racy" calendars or posters, inappropriate touching, looks or gestures can all be forms of sexual harassment. All harassment shows a lack of respect for others. Sexual harassment should not be part of our lives, on or off base.

Many people are hesitant to deal with sexual harassment because the offender may be someone you know or trust. You may be fearful of

repercussions or worried that you will be labeled if you try and address the situation. You may even doubt yourself or second guess yourself, but if something makes you uncomfortable it is better to address the situation. You cannot be a fully productive member of the 910th team if you do not feel comfortable and valued in your workplace. Ignoring a situation doesn't usually help, it usually just makes the situation worse.

To all supervisors, I expect all of you to take any allegations of sexual harassment seriously. We owe it to our Airmen and ourselves to address and take action when made aware of a situation.

If sexual harassment is not taken seriously it has the potential to escalate into sexual assault and violence. Sexual harassment is a big deal and an important issue. Each and every one of us has a responsibility to stop and prevent sexual harassment. Every time we don't speak up to the person bothering us, every time we don't say something to the person we know is bothering others, every time we laugh or snicker or discount the issue, we become part of the problem. We all have the responsibility, especially leadership, of having a harassment-free environment.

The core value of 'Excellence' can only be achieved when we work together. Sexual harassment and sexual harassment concerns will be treated seriously. Deal with sexual harassment promptly. Your actions can make a difference. Thank you for helping to make sure our work environments are the best that they can be.

If you need assistance with this issue, my Equal Opportunity staff can help. Stop by our office or give us a call at 330-609-1372 or 330-609-1039 if you have any questions.

Aircraft Maintenance



Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron perform various phases of an inspection on a C-130H Hercules tactical cargo transport aircraft in a hangar near the flightline of Youngstown Air Reserve Station during the January Unit Training Assembly. Several types of inspections are conducted on the aircraft assigned to YARS to ensure the 910th Airlift Wing has ready aircraft to carry out flying missions at all times.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jim Brock

Unit:

910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio

Air Force Specialty Code:

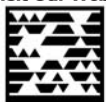
2A5X1 Aircraft Maintenance

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910th Airlift Wing Commander
Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer

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On the cover



This issue's cover features Maj. John Bocchieri, a pilot and aircraft commander with the 910th Airlift Wing's 773rd Airlift Squadron. Major Bocchieri recently returned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station after spending two years in Washington, D.C., as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio's 16th district. See the story and additional photos on page 6-7. Top photo by Pete Souza, courtesy of the White House Photo Office. Bottom photo and cover design by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

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The Next Chapter

Retiring 910th AW vice commander says goodbye but keeps eye on sky

Staff Sgt. Valerie Smock
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Ask anyone at Youngstown Air Reserve Station and the answer will likely be the same.

“He is very open and engaging,” said Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 910th Airlift Wing Commander. “We can bounce ideas off of each other and he is a real confidant. People can talk to and trust him. His opinion and judgment speak volumes.”

Those volumes could fill many books of compliments about the type of person he is.

“He is definitely a people person, always looking out for people,” said Chief Master Sergeant Troy K. Rhoades, 910th AW Command Chief Master Sergeant. “He is definitely a behind-the-scenes person, he doesn’t relish the lime light. He allows others to take credit.”

That recognition is something he would rather instill upon the Airmen he has served with.

After writing several pages at YARS, Col. Timothy S. Costa, former vice commander of the 910th AW, is moving onto the next chapter of his novel — retirement following a 28-year career with the Air Force.

During his more than 20 years with the 910th AW, Colonel Costa served as a Traditional Reservist and most recently assisted with the management of the wing. Being a Reservist is much more than just a job, he said.

With any job comes challenges and the Reserve career requires Airmen to juggle military, family and work. When Colonel Costa was activated to serve overseas, he said he had to miss many events in his family’s lives.

He missed birthdays, anniversaries and his son Nick’s soccer games. However, he said his family was supportive through the entire process.

“Your family doesn’t mind [the deployments],” said Colonel Costa. “It’s all part of the bargain. Melissa and Nick never had any complaints, even during the deployments.”

Mrs. Costa said entering into the military lifestyle was new for her but they both came from the same roots, hometown and ethics.

“We knew each other since junior high,” she said. “After high school, we met again in the month we graduated college. He was being commissioned and I was starting my first job. It was coincidental we ended up in the same location. We were good friends first and then we fell in love and got married.”

The Costa’s lives together began with a tour of duty at what was formerly known as Rhein-Main Air Base, West Germany. He was



Courtesy photo

Retired Col. Timothy S. Costa poses for a photograph with his wife, Melissa, and son, Nick, during the holiday season. Colonel Costa retired recently after serving for more than 20 years at 910th Airlift Wing.

‘You never know what direction
your next opportunity will come from.’

—Col. Timothy S. Costa

an Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery System (AWADS) Instructor Navigator while his wife worked at the base education center.

“It was a learning curve,” Mrs. Costa said. “It was new to both of us, but I had great resources and great friends. We were all in it together.”

Many years later, this curve is now bending in a different direction. Colonel Costa will no longer be a Reservist, but will continue his job on the civilian side, working with the Federal Aviation Administration at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport control tower.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Banko Jr.

“Through active duty, through making the decision to get off active duty, to serving as a Reservist, they were all wonderful chapters,” Mrs. Costa said. “We’re ready to start the next challenge.”

Although Colonel Costa is moving forward, he leaves the Wing with some parting advice.

“You should always prepare for the next step,” he said. “You can’t always be stagnant. Whether you’re working on another degree, it’s broadening you out. A lot of what we do is short notice. So we’re always preparing. You never know what direction your next opportunity will come from.”

Being prepared is what has helped Colonel Costa leave his footprint at YARS and eventually reach this point in his career.

“We’re all going to miss Colonel Costa and we appreciate his devotion to the 910th,” said Colonel Linsenmeyer. “One door closes and another one opens. It’s another chapter in his life. He’s not going far. It’ll be nice to hear his voice on the radio.”

While the Reserve mission for Colonel Costa may be complete, his other journey takes off. For now, Mr. Costa will watch over YARS from the tower, looking after plane, after plane, after plane.

Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 910th Airlift Wing Commander, (right) presents retiring vice commander Col. Timothy S. Costa with an award Feb. 5 at the Headquarters building. Colonel Costa was awarded for his 20 years of service as a Traditional Reservist with the 910th Airlift Wing.

Life's a beach

for YARS Yellow Ribbon Program participants

Virginia Beach Yellow Ribbon event attendees participate in team building exercises at the beach Feb. 26.



Story and photos by Senior Airman Megan Tomkins
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Stepping out into the crisp, salty air, Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airmen and their families are greeted by sunny skies, rolling waves and miles of warm sand.

Far away from the blistering cold and snow in Northeast Ohio, approximately 90 Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) attendees utilized this Virginia Beach, Va., safe haven Feb. 25-27 for mission and family readiness.

The YRP was designed to help prepare Department of Defense Reservists and Guardsmen and their families for deployment readiness and re-integration. Each event provides information on multiple topics including finance, family readiness, chaplain services, TriCare, Key Spouse Program and more.

This North regional event included 12 bases within Air Force Reserve Command and consisted of big group sessions and smaller break-out sessions that covered credit management, marriage enrichment and relationship skills for singles. As an added attraction, the Blue Aces, a component of the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band entertained the attendees.

According to the Yellow Ribbon website, "The Yellow Ribbon Program is aligned under the Family and Employer Programs and Policy Office within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs."

Servicemembers have the opportunity to attend one event before they deploy and two when they return, said Maj. Steven Morris, 910th Airlift Wing Yellow Ribbon representative and liaison for the Virginia Beach event.

Major Morris said that it is important for Servicemembers to know the benefits they have earned during and after their deployments and what is available to assist their families.

Jerry Cardinal, AFRC Chief of Services, said the YRP has been able to save marriages and help Servicemembers realize they have post-traumatic stress disorder just by attending the event.

"This whole program is about taking care of Airmen and their families," said Mr. Cardinal. "If you can have an impact on one person, that's what [the YRP] is all about."

Master Sgt. Brian Phillips, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron noncommissioned officer of structures, attended the Virginia Beach YRP as his 30-day post-deployment event. He attended the Kalahari YRP in Sandusky, Ohio, prior to deployment and said both were beneficial.

"Information on Veteran's Affairs benefits rang home with me," said Sergeant Phillips.

Both Sergeant Phillips and his wife, Teresa, said the event was well-organized and provided valuable information and wonderful child care.

"[Leadership of the event] made it clear and reflected that Yellow Ribbon and staff were here for us," said Sergeant Phillips. "It was not a statement forgotten."

Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, commander of the 910th AW, said that the YRP is good for everyone because it encourages communication, building relationships and networking among the organizations of the program and up the ladder.

"[The YRP] helps build resiliency in families ... and in turn helps out our Airmen," said Colonel Linsenmeyer.

RETURN FROM THE HILL

**AFTER SERVING TWO
YEARS IN THE U.S.
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES,
A CITIZEN AIRMAN
REFLECTS ON HIS TIME
AS A CONGRESSMAN
UPON HIS RETURN TO
DUTY AS A C-130 PILOT
AT YARS**

Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Since 1997, Maj. John Bocchieri has flown to many parts of the globe and has met a wide variety of individuals as a C-130 pilot. However, it was his latest role that gave him the chance to meet, work and play - basketball, that is - with the President of the United States. The 24-month long Washington, D.C., stint was not at Andrews Air Force Base or one of the other many military bases in that area but at the U.S. Capitol Building.

Major Bocchieri recently returned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, to resume his duties as an aircraft commander with the 910th Airlift Wing's 773rd Airlift Squadron after two years as a United States Congressman.

During his term as the representative for Ohio's 16th District, which began in January 2009, Major Bocchieri was not able to maintain his duties as a pilot and aircraft commander due to the heavy demands of his elected position, but was able to continue his career as a Reservist by working at Headquarters Air Force Reserve in Washington, D.C. In fact, his orders to work at headquarters came directly from Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

"I have flown all over the world with the Air Force, but General Stenner wanted to utilize me at the Pentagon while I learned my job at the Capitol," said Major Bocchieri.

Although the pilot turned elected federal official was hesitant to give up his position on the flight deck of an Air Force Reserve aircraft, his seat in the House of Representatives meant that was exactly what he would have to do, at least while he was a Congressman.

After receiving his assignment, Major Bocchieri fulfilled his military duties in the offices of Strategic Planning and Strategic Communications.

"Our job was communicating [on behalf of the military] with Congress and elected officials," he said. "It was unique for me to wear both hats. As my duties as a congressman permitted, I was able to



Courtesy photo
Congressman (and Air Force Reserve Major) John Bocchieri speaks at a congressional podium in front of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., as part of his duties as a U.S. Representative for Ohio's 16th District. After a two-year term Major Bocchieri returns to the 910th Airlift Wing to resume his duties as a C-130 pilot and aircraft commander.

work at the Pentagon."

Even though he was not able to fly aboard the 910th's C-130s during his congressional term, his elected position did allow him to fly aboard one of the world's most recognized aircraft several times.

"During the first few months of my term, I had the chance to fly aboard Air Force One with President Obama," said Major Bocchieri. "He offered me the chance to fly the plane, and although I am pretty sure he was joking, I politely declined, saying, 'Mr. President, I am not qualified to fly something this big.'"

**Congressman
(and Air Force
Reserve Major)
John Bocchieri
meets with
President Barack
Obama in the
West Wing of the
White House,
Nov. 18, 2010. The
President signed a
copy of this photo
and thanked the
congressman for
his friendship and
public service.**



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

While he did not climb behind the controls of the famed aircraft, he did have the chance to visit the flight deck and came away with a strong impression of the presidential air transport's Airmen.

"That crew represents us extremely well," he said. "I am very proud to have that mission in the Air Force."

In addition to flying aboard the presidential aircraft, Major Bocchieri said being a congressman gave him a different perspective on the familiar world of the Air Force Reserve.

In June 2010, he met with Servicemembers from the 910th AW after they returned from their historic oil-dispersing aerial spray mission in the wake of the sinking of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Citizen Airmen presented a "from the field" briefing to groups of congressional staff members, including those from then-Congressman Bocchieri's office, on the topic of their unique role in battling the worst environmental disaster in the country's history.

After the group briefings, Major Bocchieri and his legislative colleague, Congressman Tim Ryan, representing Ohio's 17th District, met with the team from YARS for detailed talks about the 910th's aerial spray mission.

"I was able to help other members of Congress understand the [aerial spray] mission and the importance of that mission continuing," said Major Bocchieri. "It was a tremendous opportunity to be in a position to be able to work for [the 910th]."

Major Bocchieri's congressional term also gave him unique opportunities seldom afforded to most people. Among those was the chance to bring his family to a picnic on the grounds of a certain famous residence in Washington, D.C.

"My family and I were invited to a summertime cookout at the White House," he said. "I was walking across the lawn with my son on my shoulders and the President walked over and gave him a high five, that's a pretty memorable experience."

The major said he also had the chance to play in at least one of President Obama's famed White House basketball games.

While being a member of Congress gave him opportunities that most Americans only see or hear about through the media, Major Bocchieri said those things only occurred because he decided to serve the people of his district. This is something that

he feels he was fortunate to be able to do and a responsibility he took very seriously.

"The hardest vote I ever made was to continue the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

The decision to keep our nation's Servicemembers on a faraway battlefield was something that weighed heavily on his mind.

"I tossed and turned at night, thinking back to missions where we flew wounded and fallen soldiers out of Iraq, thinking about the vote to keep our troops there, knowing some of them might not come home," said Major Boccieri.

The former congressman said making that vote was harder than any combat mission he ever flew.

"The Air Force provides great resources and training for aircraft commanders to help them make the decisions they need to," he said. "There isn't any training for members of congress to make the decision to send our nation's greatest assets into harm's way."

However, a common thread between members of the military and elected officials is the hope to leave a situation in at least a little bit better shape than when they got there.

"I am one of only 10,600 Americans that have served in Congress throughout the history of our country," said Major Boccieri. "When I started in Congress, we were in one of the most difficult times

in our country since the Great Depression. We are starting to come out of it but we still have a long way to go."

During his term, the major said his military training helped him along the way.

"One of the things I relied heavily upon during my time in Congress was the leadership training I received from the Air Force," he said.

Major Boccieri recalled the advice an instructor gave during a military course he attended during his career.

"He said 'The decisions you make as a leader may not be the most popular but they are the right thing to do.' That is the same for being a Servicemember, a congressman or even a father," said Major Boccieri.

Another similarity between Servicemembers and those in public life is what families must endure while the member carries out their duty.

"In both military life and public life, my family serves with me," he said. "Whether it is the difficulty of being separated by a deployment or having to hear that negative piece of press in the news about the way you voted on a certain bill, they are always there for me and I am grateful for that," he said.

Major Boccieri has been married to his wife, Stacey for 14 years. They have five children,

ranging from 10 to three months old. For more than a decade, he has worked in the political arenas of Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, D.C.

While he is not ruling out returning to the life of a legislator sometime in the future, he is currently looking forward to spending time with his family at home and working out of YARS.

Just two years after he left the flight line of YARS for the chambers of the U.S. Capitol, Major Boccieri is preparing to return to what he enjoys most... flying. Even as he reflects on his time in a seat on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Major Boccieri is also turning his attention to a seat he is re-familiarizing himself with... the aircraft commander's chair on the flight deck of C-130H2 Hercules tactical cargo transport aircraft.

"Between my time in state government and in D.C., I have been on the political turnpike for 12 years," he said. "It feels good to pull off into a rest area. I'm pleased to be back doing something I'm highly trained to do and fundamentally love doing."

As Maj. John Boccieri trades the suit and tie of a U.S. Congressman for the flight suit of an Air Force Reserve Citizen Airman, he may not know some aspects of his future. But, he does know he is flying ahead to meet that future as a pilot on the flight deck of a 910th Airlift Wing C-130.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Congressman (and Air Force Reserve Major) John Boccieri (far right) watches as President Barack Obama shakes hands with Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, on the Youngstown Air Reserve Station flightline, May 18, 2010.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Maj. (and former Congressman) John Boccieri sits in the pilot's chair on the flight deck of a C-130H Hercules tactical cargo transport aircraft on the flightline of Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Feb. 18.

"HE SAID 'THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE AS A LEADER MAY NOT BE THE MOST POPULAR BUT THEY ARE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.' THAT IS THE SAME FOR BEING A SERVICEMEMBER, A CONGRESSMAN OR EVEN A FATHER."

- MAJ. JOHN BOCCIERI



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Congressman (and Air Force Reserve Maj.) John Boccieri (right, seated) talks with Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, (center, seated) and Congressman Tim Ryan (right, seated) about the 910th Airlift Wing's aerial spray mission in the Rayburn Room of the Capitol Building, Washington, D.C., June 9, 2010. The congressmen spoke with Colonel Linsenmeyer and his small team of Youngstown Air Reserve Station Citizen Airmen about the unit's operations in the Gulf of Mexico during the aftermath of the explosion and sinking of the Deepwater Horizon oil-drilling platform. The group also talked about the overall capabilities of the DoD's only large-area fixed-wing aerial spray unit.



A Pilot-For-A-Day participant tries on an aircrew helmet equipped with Night Vision Goggles. This equipment is maintained by 910th Operations Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment flight.



Aircrew Flight Equipment: Maintaining equipment, Saving lives

Capt. Joe Beannington, pilot with the 757th Airlift Squadron, demonstrates the proper use of smoke as a signaling device. This smoke can is part of an aircrew equipment bag maintained by 910th Operations Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment flight.

Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Dennis Kilker
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A pilot guiding his aircraft onto a dark landing strip in enemy territory under the cover of night relies on Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) to deliver a combat-essential payload. A loadmaster preparing cargo for an airdrop dons a helmet to provide her protection and necessary communication with the flight deck. A navigator, forced to bail after catastrophic engine failure, pulls his parachute cord and breathes a sigh of relief as the canopy catches the air, ensuring his safe landing.

The 910th Airlift Wing has flown more than 143,000 hours without a major accident. For the Citizen Airmen that fulfill the Air Force Reserve's mission to "fly, fight, and win" by safely operating Youngstown Air Reserve Station's aircraft for the past 30 years, essential life support gear provides instrumental technology and peace of mind.

The 910th Operations Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) flight specializes in procuring, issuing and training in the use of life-safety equipment used by aircrews. The flight, formerly known as Life Support, is a conglomeration of elements from several squadrons that merged in 2008.

"We had life support elements in the 757th Airlift Squadron and the 773rd Airlift Squadron," said Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haupt, 910th AFE flight superintendent. "The survival equipment maintenance section was over with the 910th Maintenance Group. We all merged into the new AFSC [Air Force Specialty Code] called Aircrew Flight Equipment and were assigned to OSS."

Airmen within the unit call this merging Cross Utilization Training.

"To be in this unit is to know your job and everyone else's," Sergeant

Haupt said. "All of our [Air Reserve Technicians] have done this, but we have Reservists who are trying to pick it up with all of the requirements during [Unit Training Assembly] weekends. So, we actually have people out here for 365 days for [Seasoning Training Program] to learn the equipment and the maintenance."

Life support equipment is essential for aircrews, and its maintenance is the primary job of AFE.

"We take care of all of the aircrew survival equipment as well as anything the aircrew needs or wants for survival situations and everyday use such as helmet, mask and also the NVGs."

The flight serves several 910th C-130 missions; for example, aerial spray aircrew members sometimes wear masks and Tyvek suits issued by the flight.

"We have smoke masks which we issue to all the spray loadmasters that ride in the back and do spray control," said Tech. Sgt. Phil Walsh, one of the supervisors of Aircrew Flight Equipment. "They wear them during tank-filling operations to avoid inhaling the fumes."

In addition to the masks, AFE assembles and maintains bags of equipment for each aircrew member.

"It's all part of the aircraft, but they have their own individual bags for spray," said Sergeant Haupt. "If you're an aircrewman and you have a bag for [the spray mission], we maintain the bag."

The task of maintaining the equipment that keeps the aircrews of the Wing's 12 aircraft safe is large. Fortunately, there are expertly trained individuals assigned to the AFE flight making sure the equipment is available and in good working order. Aircrew members can trust that should the unthinkable happen, they will have the gear required to "fly, fight, and win" another day.

Chief of Staff announces Force Management Plan

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz

Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Secretary Donley and I recognize and appreciate the tremendous sacrifices asked of you and your family, and we are proud of your exceptional contributions to our nation in a time of war.

As you may recall, last March, the Secretary and I announced a Force Management Plan intended to size and shape the officer and enlisted force to align the Air Force within our congressionally authorized personnel ceiling.

Through the Force Management actions we took last year, we met our enlisted goal in FY10; however, we remain approximately 2,300 officers above our authorized ceiling.

Our Air Force is now at a 16-year high in retention at a time when we already exceed authorized personnel strength levels. It is for this reason that the Secretary and I made the difficult, but fiscally responsible decision to continue Force Management measures. This will not be easy and we do not take this decision lightly.

First, in an effort to minimize the impact to our current force, we will reduce active duty accessions as much as prudent. In addition to the previously announced voluntary programs, we will also implement involuntary programs to include enlisted date of separation rollbacks, officer retention boards and

reduced officer promotion opportunities. Our over strength situation is such that offers of selective continuation for twice deferred officers may be limited. More information on this multi-tiered Force Management Plan is available on the Air Force Personnel Center website and will be communicated by your base-level Force Support Squadrons in the near future.

This is a difficult time. The results of last year's reductions are no doubt affecting units and lives across our Air Force family. With a very talented, all-volunteer force answering our nation's call in a variety of global commitments, it is not easy to select Airmen for early transition from the active duty force.

For those of you choosing or selected to transition from active duty, I sincerely thank you for your service and encourage you to stay with our Air Force family through our Guard and Reserve programs. Leaders at all levels are committed to assisting you through your transition to the next phase of your careers, and our Airman and Family Readiness Centers are standing by with valuable resources to support your transition.

As I stated last March, the Secretary and I have carefully considered all options and their impacts. In the end, we arrived at the conclusion that these additional force management measures are necessary for the Air Force to reduce personnel strength to authorized levels over the next two years. In short, we seek to do the difficult now in order to put this dilemma behind us, returning to more predictable career paths for all Airmen.

YARS privately owned weapons policy

In light of recent events throughout the nation, the 910th Airlift Wing policy regarding the handling of privately owned weapons and ammunition from 910AWGM31-101ISI dated April 21, 2010 is as follows:

12.13. Prohibited weapons and contraband. In order to ensure the safety of all assigned personnel, bringing prohibited weapons and/or contraband on the installation is in violation of Local, State, and Federal Laws. As noted in sections 2923.11 to 2923.24 of the Ohio Revised Code, a "Deadly Weapon" means any instrument, device, or thing capable of inflicting death, and designed or specially adapted for use as a weapon, or possessed, carried, or used as a weapon.

12.13.1. The following listed items constitute a deadly weapon:

12.13.1.1. Firearms (handguns, air pistols, rifles, shotguns, automatic or semi-automatic weapons)

12.13.1.2. Any type of ammunition

12.13.1.3. Compound bows and arrows

12.13.1.4. Crossbows and arrows

12.13.1.5. Knives with blades longer than five inches (other than government issue)

12.13.1.6. Num-chucks

12.13.1.7. Brass knuckles

12.13.1.8. Wooden or metal clubs or pipes.

12.13.4.4. Transportation of firearms and unusually dangerous weapons in motor vehicles on-base, except under transport to proper storage, is strictly prohibited.

12.13.4.5. The sale, purchase and distribution of firearms or unusually dangerous weapons on-base is prohibited without the written permission of the installation commander.

In short, neither privately owned weapons nor ammunition are authorized on Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS). All personnel are required to contact the Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) at 330-609-1277 to report individuals possessing any prohibited items.

Additionally, all YARS personnel will report any suspicious behaviors to the BDOC and their supervisor, first sergeant or commander. These behaviors include, but are not limited to threatening co-workers or supervisors with violence, brandishing weapons and provoking speeches and gestures.

Please direct any additional questions to Special Agent Corey Christman at 330-609-1554 or Capt. Ryan Robin at 330-609-1248.

910th AW receives Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

The Air Force Reserve Command recently announced that the 910th Airlift Wing is the recipient of an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

The 910th AW was recognized for outstanding achievement from April 28 to June 4, 2010, when it sent two specially-equipped C-130H aircraft and more than 80 Reservists to Stennis International Airport in Kiln, Miss., to aid in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup efforts.

While deployed to the Gulf Coast, the aircrews flew 92 sorties and sprayed 30,000 acres with nearly 149,000 gallons of dispersant.

Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, commander of 910th AW, said he was proud of the Wing's group effort.

"All our reserve, civilian and contractor personnel actively contributed to this exceptional achievement," he said.

AFRC to implement DBIDS

Airmen may have noticed guards at Air Force installations scanning ID cards with what looks like a cashier's check-out gun. This is a component of the Defense Biometrics Identification System (DBIDS), a physical access control system which incorporates biometrics. DBIDS has already been installed at 13 bases, and every installation will eventually use it.

In AFRC, Westover and Dobbins Air Reserve Bases began using DBIDS in January. All other AFRC installations are scheduled for 2012. Once installed, Airmen and their families will need to register in DBIDS at Customer Service, Visitor Control Center or as directed.

DBIDS produces visitor ID badges, vehicle passes and various reports of who accessed the installation, including sponsors and barred individuals. It also incorporates the latest technology to enhance force protection while minimizing impact and inconvenience in daily operations.

Information from an AFRC release was used in this article.

New AFRC program streamlines Reservists' medical case management

The Department of Defense and Veteran's Affairs have recently worked together on a pilot program to improve medical case management for Reservists.

The goal is to provide a "one-stop shop" for members affected by service-related illness, injury or disease.

Rolled out Oct. 2010, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) combines DoD and VA systems implementing a single medical examination. IDES aims to quickly return healthy Servicemembers

to duty or provide seamless transition to benefits for those who are not. IDES implementation is scheduled for September at service component sites.

"Caring for Airmen is one of my top priorities, as is the welfare of your family," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "I encourage you to remain focused on healthy and safe lifestyle decisions and above all, take care of yourself and each other."

Information from an AFRC news release was used in this article.

Civilian employees should start education applications early

Hundreds of professional development opportunities are available annually for civilian employees. Many of those slots go unfilled, in part because eligible candidates wait until the last minute to prepare and staff their application packages.

For example, annually, 280 Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training (CALT) program positions, 100 Squadron Officer School slots and 180 Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) Distance Learning Master's program slots are available to civilians.

Many people are under the impression that participating in the civilian developmental education program is only for senior civilians, or that they will be forced to relocate if they participate. That is not true in most cases.

"There are opportunities for employees at every pay and leadership level, varying from the CALT program to in-residence Air War College," said Ms. Loretta Brown, civilian leadership development chief at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

"Only certain programs commit the employee to continued service agreements and relocation. But those programs are primarily senior leadership programs," she added.

The three civilian developmental education levels include tactical, operational and strategic. Tactical level programs are primarily for new civilian employees, although civilians hired before NEO was implemented are encouraged to complete the seven-module online program.

Major differences between NEO and CALT are that NEO is mandatory for all new civilian hires and must

be completed within 90 days of accession, while CALT is optional, and only non-prior military employees are eligible.

Operational level programs include Education with Industry, ACSC DL Master's Program, and Intermediate Developmental Education Programs. Operational level programs exist to educate and develop mid-career employees. Each program has eligibility requirements but are designed to grow future civilian leaders.

Finally, strategic level options include senior developmental education programs, like Air War College (AWC), and strategic leadership education programs, such as the Executive Development Seminar. Strategic level programs exist to prepare high-potential employees for increased responsibility and shared leadership.

Information on all CDE programs is available on the AFPC Force Development web page at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>. Type "civilian force development" in the search field and then select the green updated civilian force development homepage link.

Civilian employees who want to grow their careers have education opportunities at every level, said Brown. To make sure they have every advantage, they need to get started on the application. The civilian developmental education call is open now with applications due to AFPC/DPIFDA by May 1.

For more information, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call 800-525-0102.

Information from a U.S. Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs press release.

YARS Spouse Group welcomes new members

Judi Linsenmeyer
Youngstown Reserve Spouse Group

As the senior spouse of Youngstown Air Reserve Station, it is my pleasure to introduce a wonderful group of volunteers that have organized and created the Youngstown Reserve Spouse Group (YRSG).

While we have "spouse" in our name, we welcome all spouses, family members, civilians or military members associated with the base to join our group for social interaction, volunteer efforts and fellowship—the opportunities are still building.

The YRSG currently meets monthly on Sunday of Unit Training Assemblies at 2 p.m. at our base club.

The YRSG president is Kelly Robin and we both extend an open invitation to have new members come and join us.

If you'd like more information, you can e-mail me at linann10@hotmail.com.

IG updates phone number

The contact numbers for the Inspector General's office have been updated to one primary phone number for complaints and reports of fraud, waste and abuse. 330-609-1090.



Illustration by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

WINGMAN PROJECT

Citizen Airmen...
Never leave their Wingman.

Ask	Have the courage to ask directly: "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
Care	Intervene. Stay calm. Control the situation. Actively listen. Remove any means for self-injury.
Escort	Get the person to a primary care provider, chaplain or other healthcare professional. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or 911.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800.273.8255 Option 1 **AIR FORCE RESERVE**

AFRC.WingmanToolkit.org

NEWCOMERS

Maj. Thomas E. Janousek, 757th Airlift Squadron
Maj. Shannon L. Weikert, 910th Medical Squadron
1st Lt. Nathan J. Maiken, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Master Sgt. John D. Walker, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Krystal R. Bottenfield, 910th Airlift Squadron
Staff Sgt. David E. Dziurzynski, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Staff Sgt. Mark E. Leist, 910th Airlift Wing
Staff Sgt. Janson E. Stevensakiona, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Adam B. Tyjeski, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Senior Airman Steven A. Calaway, 757th Airlift Squadron
Senior Airman Terry D. Carter, 910th Airlift Wing
Senior Airman Eric R. Elias, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Andrea J. Gonzales, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Senior Airman Joshua J. Sherman, 910th Aerial Port Squadron
Airman 1st Class Dominic D. English, 910th Medical Squadron
Airman 1st Class Chadwick M. Fenstermaker, 910th Maintenance Sq.
Airman 1st Class Joshua D. Schering, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Airman Alexander M. Brakovich, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Robert B. Hunter, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Tyler J. Lawrentz, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Airman Michael W. McMullen II, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Airman Basic Brandi E. Moore, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Airman Basic Donta D. Newby, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Airman Basic Drew T. Zakrajsek, 910th Maintenance Squadron

PROMOTIONS



To SMSgt Thomas Seger, 910th Maintenance Squadron

To MSgt Robert E. Breeckner Jr., 910th Force Support Squadron
Kenneth Gordon, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Khalid Mulazim, 910th Airlift Wing
Robert Plant, 910th Security Forces Squadron

To TSgt Gregory V. Bennett, 910th Operations Group
Elizabeth K. Ference, 910th Force Support Squadron
Kenneth V. Hesser, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Jason L. Kirk, 910th Medical Squadron
Christopher Lis, 910th Airlift Wing
Gordon Wagner, 910th Security Forces Squadron

To SSgt Courtney C. Bryan, 910th Airlift Wing
Brian M. Cowx, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Joshua D. Diaz, 910th Medical Squadron
Todd M. Eisenman, 910th Security Forces Squadron
James T. Hunter, 910th Force Support Squadron
Andrew S. Kirby, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Renee Mihoci, 910th Force Support Squadron
Michael Sammartino, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Valerie L. Smock, 910th Airlift Wing
Joshua P. Thom, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Christina L. Wick, 910th Medical Squadron
Joshua Winder, 910th Maintenance Squadron

To SrA Gregory Baker, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Mervin B. Bumagat, 910th Medical Squadron
Nicholas Dean, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Alexander G. Elmlinger, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Marcia Gassaway, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Robert F. Harris II, 910th Operations Support Squadron
Timothy J. Kantorak, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Denise A. Lipford, 910th Medical Squadron
Sophie L. Maloy, 910th Medical Squadron
Anisha McCloud, 910th Medical Squadron
Natasha D. Mells, 910th Medical Squadron
Nicholas Pinter, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Jamie R. Quarterman, 910th Logistics Readiness Sq.
Michael W. Rinkes, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Joshua Schering, 773rd Airlift Squadron
Jarrett Scott, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Ashley S. Thorpe, 910th Mission Operations Flight
Patrick J. Waddell, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Timothy Zimmerman, 773rd Airlift Squadron

To A1C Heather L. Berenyi, 910th Medical Squadron
Rachel M. Bohannon, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
Shelby S. Brooke, 910th Medical Squadron
Courtne I. Clark, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Jonathan M. Edwards, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Henry H. Haines, 910th Maintenance Squadron
James E. Harris III, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Julian Kalis, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Joshua J. McCarthy, 910th Maintenance Squadron
Sarah E. Miles, 910th Force Support Squadron
Christopher Moore, 910th Security Forces Squadron
Brandon K. Porter, 76th Aerial Port Squadron
Leigha Rohrer-Barna, 910th Logistics Readiness Sq.

To Amn Michael A. Duniec, 910th Airlift Wing
Seth Marsh, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Donta D. Newby, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron

ATTENTION YARS RESERVISTS

The 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office invites Reservists to share their story with others.

Are you and your parent, sibling or child a YARS Reservist?

If you are part of a parent-child Reservist team and would like to be interviewed for an upcoming feature story, please e-mail pa@youngstown.af.mil or call 330-609-1236 by May Unit Training Assembly.



Follow Youngstown Air Reserve Station on Facebook and Twitter



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Stressed? Help is just a wingman away

Maj. Colleen VanNatta

910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Deputy Chief

"I cannot overemphasize the critical role wingmen play to help prevent suicide," said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Suicide prevention and awareness is crucial for Airmen, said Tech. Sgt. Princeton Lowe, administrative specialist with 910th Airlift Wing.

"My civilian co-worker was showing signs of stress, mood swings and erratic behavior," he said. "No one ever dreamed he'd take his own life. It's so important to know the signs and act on them."

Knowing how to help a person in need is a critical skill important to all branches of the military and is being stressed in a campaign by the Air Force called The Wingman Project.

"Being a good wingman is a 24-hour-a-day job," said Col. Fritz Linsenmeyer, 910th AW commander. "Whether on or off duty, we owe it to our friends and co-workers to be watchful, committed and prepared."

Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airmen gathered at events during the February Unit Training Assembly to hold wingman discussions and participate in team-building, problem-solving exercises.

"Our theme for our Winter Wingman Day was resiliency," said Lt. Col. Kristin Damigella, chief of 910th AW Equal Opportunity. "The cornerstones of resiliency are physical, mental, social and spiritual fitness."

910th Command Chief Master Sgt. Troy Rhoades said the Reserve military lifestyle can be difficult for Airmen.

"Juggling family, career and Reserve obligations can create a lot of stress," he said. "Staying balanced and resilient are great ways to combat that stress."

Despite these daily pressures and responsibilities, there are ways Airmen can lead happy, healthy lives, according to Colonel Damigella.

"Addressing, fortifying and nurturing all aspects of your life help maintain stability," she said.

She recommends Airmen develop strong, healthy relationships, exercise, eat a healthy diet and work quiet time into daily routines.

One Airmen said she is better equipped to deal with stress in the future thanks to the wingman training.

"I learned that communication is key and I feel so much more comfortable expressing frustration and stress instead of bottling it up," said Senior Airman Caitlyn M. Youngs, personnel specialist with 910th Force Support Squadron. "People care and we are here to help each other."

The willingness of Air Force leaders to talk about suicide, stress and mental health impressed Master Sgt. Ricardo Gonzalez, paralegal with 910th Judge Advocate.

"Old timers like me have viewed talking about stress and asking for help as a weakness, and I've been surprised not only by the Air Force leadership's awareness of this stress, but by the open forum that is allowing us to start talking about it," he said.

The new Air Force acronym ACE stands for

Ask, Care, Escort. Colonel Damigella explained it as simply being a good wingman.

"In tangible terms [being a good wingman] is everything from taking a buddy's keys when he's had too much to drink, being vigilant and asking about out-of-character behavior, to reminding a co-worker of an appointment," she said. "It means having each other's backs."

Taking care of each other on and off the battlefield is not a new concept for Airmen but Air Force leadership is stressing the importance of The Wingman Project to help reduce stress and save lives.

"The bottom line is good wingmen can trust in one another and they protect each other ... so they can take care of the mission that's been entrusted to them," Colonel Linsenmeyer said.

For more information about The Wingman Project, visit <http://afrc.wingmantoolkit.org>.

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.



Maj. Timothy McCarty, health services administrator with the 910th Medical Squadron, helps pull his wingman out of a pile of "life stress" being acted out by Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airmen during a commander's call demonstration Feb. 5 at Packard Music Hall.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Lisium



910th Airlift Wing
Employer Awareness Day
July 10, 2011



**Are you having a difficult time explaining your Air Force Reserve career to your civilian employer?
Would you like the opportunity to show your employer what you do on your drill weekends?
Would you like to thank your employer for their understanding and support of your Reserve career?**

The 910th Airlift Wing is scheduled to host the 2011 Employer Awareness Day **July 10, 2011** at Youngstown Air Reserve Station. This event serves as the perfect opportunity to educate your civilian employer about your service to our country, show them first hand how vital you are to the success of the 910th AW's mission and thank them for their continued support.

Employers will have the opportunity to fly on a C-130H Hercules cargo plane and have an up-close look inside YARS. A luncheon will be provided for your employer where they will be presented a certificate of appreciation.

Reservists may nominate up to two employers; however, space is limited.* The deadline for submissions is **May 15, 2011**. Contact the Public Affairs office for more information at 330-609-1236.

Rank: Name:

Unit: Phone Number:

Employer #1 Name:

Employer #1 Business:

Employer #1 Mailing Address:

Employer #1 Phone Number:

Employer #2 Name:

Employer #2 Business:

Employer #2 Mailing Address:

Employer #2 Phone Number:

* "Employer" means a person in your direct line of supervision. No more than two employers may be submitted per Reservist, but please note that space is limited and the employers chosen will be invited by the Public Affairs office. Nominating Reservists are not permitted to dine with their employers or participate in the orientation flight portion of the program. Only nominated and invited employers are permitted to attend and no guests, such as spouses or children, are authorized. Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2011.

Nomination forms may be e-mailed to pa@youngstown.af.mil or faxed to 330-609-1022.