

# Gulf Wing

403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.  
Air Force Reserve Command

Home of the Flying Jennies & the Hurricane Hunters  
Volume 26, Issue 1, January 2005

## Jennies Deploy

See Page 10

## Quiet Hero

See Page 6

## New Senior Recruiter arrives

See Page 8

## One Step Closer to Change

See Page 14

## Welcome to 2005

See Page 19

# One Heck of a Night

2005 Reserve  
Pay Chart  
Page  
18



# JAN 2005

## Committee plans festive year

By SSgt. Jessie Armstrong

403rd CES, UPAR

There is an uprising in entertainment for reservists in 2005. With such an uprising of events at the 403rd Wing, a special events committee has been established to help make them successful, and the committee is calling all reservists to help.

The special events committee is committed to Reservists' entertainment, maintaining all the events conducted over the course of the year. Staff Sgt. Jessie Armstrong, a co-chairman on the committee, said they have an exciting year in store for reservists.

"We are looking forward to a wonderful year," said Sergeant Armstrong. "Our primary focus is to raise money for the upcoming Family Day held on the May UTA; if you haven't been to Family Day, now is the time to make plans; there are going to be games, prizes and free food for all who

come - that's one event not to miss."

To raise money for Family Day, there will be donut sale in January hosted by Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Spears. The sale will be at Dolan Hall, and the proposed day will be set mid January. In addition, on March UTA the committee is hosting a quarterly 403rd Bowling Tournament. There are more than 80 slots that need to be filled, and the committee is urging people to sign-up early to prevent last minute calls. The entry fee is \$12.

Furthermore, the committee is scheduling an annual Combat Dining-In Party, consisting of war games, water gun battles and more. No dates have been set.

The committee is looking for volunteers to help out in any of the events. If reservists are interested in joining the committee, contact Sergeant Armstrong or Master Sgt. Hayes, committee supervisor, at 377-4004 or 662-297-0087, or send them an email.



Maj. Norby Patterson and other members of the Special Events Committee wrapped gifts at the BX before Christmas to raise money for events throughout the year.

### Quiet Hero

Staff Sgt. Miguel Izaguirre never thought a skill he had picked up from a next door neighbor would become a necessity. **Read more on Page 6.**

### Strategy Keeps Recruiter in Top 50

If there's one thing Tech. Sgt. Marcus Kirksey has learned about his skills as a previous insurance salesman at Liberty National, it would be that they are definitely not needed when recruiting for the Air Force Reserve. **Read more on Page 7.**

### New Senior Recruiter Arrives

Senior Master Sgt. John Mooney said he plans to keep the 403rd Recruiting Squadron at the top of their game. **Read more on Pages 8-9.**

### Flying Jennies Called to Action

After the tearful farewells were over aircrew and maintenance troops boarded a C-130J bound for Southwest Asia Dec. 12. They teamed up with another unit flying the J-model for the Air Force's first combat test of the newest airlifter. **Read more on Pages 10-11.**



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

### One Heck of a Night

A series of unfortunate events led Major Denson Tutwiler and his crew on a harrowing mission over the valleys of Afghanistan. His heroism on that snowy night saved lives and earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross. **Read more on Pages 12-13**

### What's Happening?

Know of an upcoming exercise or unit deployment? Are there special events planned at your unit? Contact your Unit Public Affairs Rep or call Public Affairs at 377-2056.

## Gulf Wing Salutes

### PROMOTIONS

#### MASTER SERGEANT

Paula D. Bulluck, 403rd CES  
Bobby R. Green, 403rd SFS  
Rodney R. Jones, 403rd MOF  
Kenneth E. Judie, 403rd MXG  
Jesse McCall Jr., 403rd MXS  
Eugene D. Noonan, 403rd MXS  
Michael G. Odom, 403rd MXS

#### TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Suzette M. Crawford, 403rd MXS  
Jennifer A. Johnson, 403rd SVF  
Robert E. Jones, 403rd MXS

#### STAFF SERGEANT

Jessie A. Armstrong, 403rd CES  
Robert J. Barr, 41st APS  
Marcus A. Crabtree, 403rd WG  
Ryan P. Gibney, 403rd CES  
Jason M. Klenke, 96th APS  
Christopher D. Mayfield, 403rd MXS  
Brandy N. Pope, 41st APS  
James S. Tanner, 403rd MXS

#### SENIOR AIRMAN

Leatrice L. Gray, 403rd MXS  
Michael V. Staten, 403rd AMXS  
Zenita L. Street, 403rd LRS

#### AIRMAN

Courtney S. Henderson, 403rd CF  
Brian J. Mitchell, 403rd CF  
Sabrina D. Roberts, 403rd ASTS  
Douglas P. Sorensen, 403rd ASTS  
Dale L. Wheat Jr., 403rd AMXS

#### NEWCOMERS

A1C Jonathan Brooks, 403rd SFS  
A1C Derrick J. Cooley, 403rd MSF  
A1C Henry J. Dixon, 403rd MXS  
A1C Michael D. Eady, 403rd AMXS  
SSgt Latreshia Fletcher, 403rd ASTS  
Maj. Lactancia D. Fernandes, 815th AS  
SrA Joey Henson, 96th APS  
SSgt David R. Ketchum, 403rd ASTS  
AB Brian J. Mitchell, 403rd CF  
SrA Patrice S. Poole, 403rd CES  
A1C Kyle L. Purvis, 403rd MXS  
AMN Danica A. Sims, 403rd ASTS  
SrA Tony D. Stanton, 403rd ASTS  
AB Rachel L. Woods, 403rd LRS

#### NOVEMBER CDC COMPLETION

SrA Justice Turner, Sr., 3P051  
SrA Kealvin L. Barnett, 3P051  
TSgt. Cynthia Underwood, 3S251  
SrA William White, 3P051

TSgt. Donald R. Maloid, Jr., 2AX7X  
SrA Wade E. Fail, 3P051  
SrA James E. Dube, 3P051  
SrA Edward W. Limmer, 2T251  
SSgt. Joel Scipio, 2AX7X  
SrA Mary E. Davis, 2T051

**CDC COMPLETION 90+**  
SSgt. Bradford H. Hanberry, 3P051  
SSgt. Christopher E. Linthicum, 2A675  
SrA Frank O. King, Jr., 2A651B

**Pay Date  
Jan. 18  
Next UTA  
Feb. 5-6**

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**Volume 26, Issue 1**

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Photo by SSgt. Jessie Armstrong

The 403rd Civil Engineering Squadron must be prepared to work in any conditions. To assure this, they routinely simulate how they would perform their duties in certain conditions. Strapped in chemical gear under a MOPP 4 simulation, Master Sgt. Keith Gardner, CES specialist, sets up survey equipment during an exercise on Dec. UTA.



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

At the top of the tower at 403rd Wing, Staff Sgt. Todd Overstreet, 403rd Communications Flight, demonstrates to his troops how to repair communications equipment.



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

In preparation of the Christmas holidays, Mrs. Sheila R. Scharnhorst, a civilian financial analyst with the 403rd Wing, takes a break from crunching numbers and decorates the Wing's Christmas tree with her comrades. Mrs. Scharnhorst has two daughters, Kristy and Leslie.

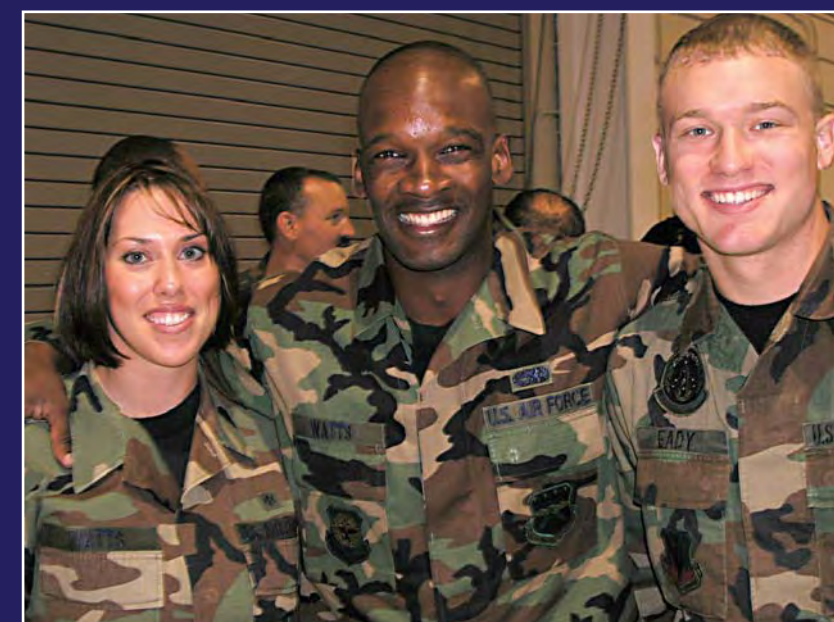


Photo by MSgt. Janice Strong



Photo by MSgt. Janice Strong

(Top) Senior Airman Eric Watts, crew chief, 403rd AMXS (center) and his wife Senior Airman Nyree Watts of the 81st TRW, share goodbyes with troops at the 403rd MXG Christmas Party during Dec. UTA. This was Airman Watt's last UTA because he is moving with his wife to her new duty assignment in England. Senior Airman Michael Eady (right), crew chief, 403rd AMXS, participated in his first UTA in December.

(Above) Retired Master Sgt. Tom Murray, formerly a maintenance technician with the 403rd MXS, plays Santa during the 403rd MXG Christmas party during Dec. UTA.



# Quiet Hero: Sign language essential in rescue

By SrA Michael Eaton  
Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Miguel Izaguirre never thought a skill he had picked up from a next door neighbor would become a necessity.

"Ring, Ring, Ring!!"

"Ring, Ring, Ring!!"

The alarm went off 2:30 a.m. one October night at the Central Fire Station in Mobile, Ala. Following the ringing bell was a voice on the loudspeaker that said, "One unconscious in vehicle in the middle of the road!"

Staff Sgt. Miguel A. Izaguirre, a firefighter with the 403rd Civil Engineering Squadron and civilian firefighter for the Mobile Fire Department quickly dressed, and he and his team were off to the scene in their emergency response vehicles.

Responding to a medical emergency is nothing new to Sergeant Izaguirre, but this particular emergency would turn out to be different from any other he had ever encountered.

The call they were responding to involved an unconscious man whose minivan was

parked in the middle of the road on Martin Luther King Boulevard, one of downtown Mobile's busiest streets, said Sergeant Izaguirre.

Arriving on the scene, Sergeant Izaguirre, a member of the Mobile Fire Department for about two years, said his team was very careful about approaching the vehicle because they weren't sure what state of mind the man was in. They had to be cautious because he could awaken and become violent, or he could have even have been armed.

"You just never know," said Sergeant Izaguirre. "Sometimes when people are unconscious it is because of drugs. It may or may not make them violent," he added.

Sergeant Izaguirre said police began shining

lights in the windows and shaking the vehicle to arouse the driver, who awakened from his unconscious state and slowly exited the vehicle.

What happened next was totally unexpected, said Sergeant Izaguirre. The man began moaning strange noises and making movements with his hands. Police weren't sure what the man was doing. Meanwhile, Sergeant Izaguirre was at one of the emergency vehicles when he noticed the man's actions.

Sergeant Izaguirre said he walked from the fire emergency vehicle to the man and asked with his hands, "Do you sign?"

The man responded with his hand "Yes!"

It turns out the man in the minivan was hearing-and-speech-

impaired, and Sergeant Izaguirre was the only one on scene who knew sign language. "I've been on calls where I translated access emergency in Spanish for medics and engine captains," said Sergeant Izaguirre. "This was the first in which I had to translate in sign language."

Sergeant Izaguirre helped medics do a medical assessment. The man in the minivan was very sick, hadn't been sleeping and fainted after putting the car in park in the middle of the street. Eventually, he was treated at a medical facility.

Sergeant Izaguirre, a San Antonio native, has spoken Spanish all his life, but has only been signing for about three years. Sergeant Izaguirre said he took interest in learning sign language when he noticed that his next-door neighbor signed to his children. His neighbor had been hearing impaired all his life, and he wanted to learn how to communicate to him.

Sergeant Izaguirre said he has taught his 11-year-old son to sign as well. Sergeant Izaguirre was named Mobile fire fighter of the month.



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Tech. Sgt. Marcus Kirksey has been a recruiter in Hattiesburg since May 2003. He originally joined the Air Force Reserve in 1999 as a Services Squadron troop. As a recruiter he maintains listening is the key to putting people in boots.

# Strategy keeps recruiter in top 50

By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce  
Staff Writer

If there's one thing Tech. Sgt. Marcus Kirksey has learned about his skills as a previous insurance salesman at Liberty National, it would be that they are definitely not needed when recruiting for the Air Force Reserve.

Sergeant Kirksey, a recent addition to the recruiting team at the 403rd Wing, said recruiting isn't like selling insurance.

"The truth is, nine out of 10 people who walk through my doors already have their minds made up - so it's not about selling, it's about listening," said Sergeant Kirksey.

Sergeant Kirksey said his strategy kept him in the top 50 out of about 400 Reserve recruiters in fiscal year 2004 and, more importantly kept smiles on the faces that entered his doors and crossed into blue.

"Listening is the key - listening to what they say and to what they need,

and then making the Reserve fit their needs through its various benefits."

Born and raised in Quitman, Miss., Sergeant Kirksey kept close to home when he first joined the Reserve at the wing in services. He enjoyed his work so much that he wanted to do it full-time, and he felt compelled to let others in on the scoop; he decided to apply for a position as a recruiter.

"I liked what I had experienced, so I felt I could reach out to young people in my age group and tell them about it," said Sergeant Kirksey.

One year after his enlistment, Sergeant Kirksey got the job, assigned to Homestead Air Reserve Station in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. After serving four years at Homestead, he applied for an opening at the 403d.

Since May 2003, Sergeant Kirksey has been assigned as a recruiter for the wing.

Working from the Hattiesburg office, he covers more than 20 counties in the state, extending as far as

Starkville.

Although Sergeant Kirksey admits the vast rural areas make it harder to recruit than in Fort Lauderdale, his numbers have remained just as strong.

In addition to the Top 50, for two consecutive years he was awarded the 110 Percent Badge for achieving his annual recruiting goal. At wing level, he was named Top Non-Prior Service Recruiter in the second, third and fourth quarters last fiscal year. He was also named Top Blind Recruiter for recruiting the most people.

Currently, Sergeant Kirksey is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing management online at the University of Phoenix.

Once attained, he considers becoming a commissioned officer for the Reserve, hopefully in the recruiting field. Until then, Sergeant Kirksey says he will continue doing what he does best and says his wife Shonda and his family continue supporting him 100 percent.





Photos by TSgt. James B. Pritchett

A heartfelt farewell speech marked the retirement of Senior Master Sgt. James Byron Wiggins, senior recruiter, 403rd RS, (right) in December. His nephew, 2nd Lt. Stacey Wiggins, traveled from Patrick AFB, Fla. to deliver the address.

## Senior recruiter salutes sharply, sails slowly off into the sunset

By TSgt. James B. Pritchett  
Editor

A worn flight cap passed down to an eight-year-old boy made an impression on the crowd gathered for the retirement of Senior Master Sgt. James Byron Wiggins, senior recruiter, 403rd RS.

The cap made an even greater impression on the young man who has treasured it since that day many years ago. Second Lt. Stacey Wiggins, Patrick AFB, Fla. related the story of how his uncle, home on leave, gave him the cap. It inspired his own career in the Air Force and brought him to Keesler in December to help the 403rd Wing say farewell to Sergeant Wiggins.

As a recruiter since 1990, Sergeant Wiggins has earned more than 25 recruiting awards and set recruiting records at each assignment.

Sergeant Wiggins began his military career 37 years ago when he joined the Air National Guard in Montgomery, Ala. as an airframe repairman in 1967.

Sergeant Wiggins said he has enjoyed serving with the people

of the 403rd Wing and intends to remain in the area.

"I couldn't have worked with a better bunch of guys here at the 403rd," he said.

His plans include concentrating on his faith and ministering to others.



Senior Master Sgt. Wiggins plans to remain on the Gulf Coast in retirement.

## Television, letter help mold career for 403rd Wing senior recruiter

By SrA Michael Eaton  
Staff Writer

He was hooked at an early age.

Senior Master Sgt. John Mooney said he knew as far back as the 6th grade he wanted to join the Air Force.

Sergeant Mooney, who recently became the Senior Recruiter for the 403rd Wing, said while in the sixth grade one of his favorite television shows featured an Air Force member as one of its main characters.

The Long Island, New York native said he was intrigued by the planes on the popular television show.

At that time, Sergeant Mooney's parents subscribed to the Readers Digest, a popular magazine. Different issues of the magazine always had postcards encouraging people to find out more about the Air Force in them. Sergeant Mooney said he wrote and sent a letter to the address on one of the postcards.

The 43-year-old senior recruiter said even though he was too young to join in the sixth grade, a recruiter sent still him a package.

When he opened it, Sergeant Mooney said he was surprised to find pictures of every plane in the Air Force inventory, and a letter outlining what he needed to do to one day join.

Fascinated by the pictures of the planes, Sergeant Mooney said he knew back then he wanted to join the Air Force.

While a senior in high school, an ambitious young Mooney went to see a recruiter without his mother's knowledge. Shortly afterwards, he told his mother about his meeting with the recruiter. With his mother's blessing Mooney signed to join the Air Force. The Air Force has been a part of his life ever since.

Sergeant Mooney, who is married with two children, has been a recruiter for nine years, with a total Air force career that spans over 18-and-a-half years. Prior to working in recruiting, Sergeant Mooney was a jet engine mechanic and worked on F16's, F15's, B52's, and other aircraft in the Air Force line up.

Sergeant Mooney said he got into recruit-



Photo by SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

Senior Master Sgt. John Mooney, new senior recruiter for the 403rd Recruiting Squadron said he plans to continue the legacy of exceeding recruiting goals in the coming year. Sergeant Mooney stands next to a new tool, a customized Reserve van, the squadron will use in its efforts.

ing when his own recruiter submitted a package for him. Shortly thereafter he was told he was going to recruiter school.

As Senior Recruiter for the 403rd, Mooney said he plans to lead by example.

Sergeant Mooney said he believes the 403rd Wing had a great recruiting program in place prior to his arrival and an excellent group of recruiters. One thing Sergeant Mooney said he plans to help with is increasing awareness.

"The main thing is getting people in uniform and keeping them in one," said Mooney.

Sergeant Mooney said he feels sometimes recruiters get tunnel vision and forget the big picture.

"This isn't just a regular job," said Sergeant Mooney. "We have men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we need to do our part to put quality people in the Air Force Reserve."

Sergeant Mooney added, "Recruiting is not about numbers. A good recruiter knows what their job is, but has fun."

Mooney said he would like to see the 403rd have one of the top recruiting programs in the Reserve.

"I don't like finishing second. I'm very competitive" said Mooney.

Sergeant Mooney encourages members to be very active in their own communities and help get the word out about the Reserve.

He encouraged members to get to

know the Reserve recruiters in their areas and participate in the Get One Program.

The Get One Program is an Air Force Reserve recruiting program designed for members already serving who can aid recruiters in identifying potential recruits. It has been very successful for the 403rd RS.

Sergeant Mooney said he believes the reasons a lot of people are joining the military have changed from when he joined. He pointed to an increase in people joining because of the benefits available to Airmen.

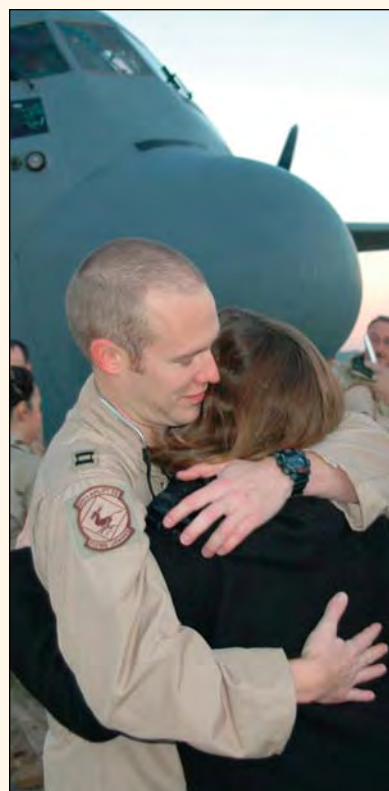
"A lot of people are interested in the Reserve," said Sergeant Mooney. "People need to realize when they join it is really about serving their country. All the other things are benefits."





Photos by TSgt. James B. Pritchett

Senior Master Sgt. Todd, spends a few final moments with son, Jordan, before deploying in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Dec. 12. Dozens of families gathered to watch the takeoff of their loved ones.



Capt. Dan, says farewell to his wife Marla.

## Flying Jennies called to action

By TSgt. James B. Pritchett  
Editor

After the tearful goodbyes, aircrew and maintenance troops heading to Al Udeid, Qatar, Dec. 12 boarded a C-130J-30 and waved farewell to their families.

Over the next few months, the team will fly missions in the area of operations that will prove the J-model in combat.

Little more than a week after deploying the team had already completed their first mission successfully.

As part of the 745th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, the 403rd team will work with other transporters from the Air National Guard and fold into a larger C-130 squadron.

"The J-model is a unique aircraft because it can fly faster, farther and higher than the older C-130s using less fuel than other models do," said Captain Darren, a J-model pilot.

"The crews from the Rhode Island Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve at Keesler AFB continue to be impressed

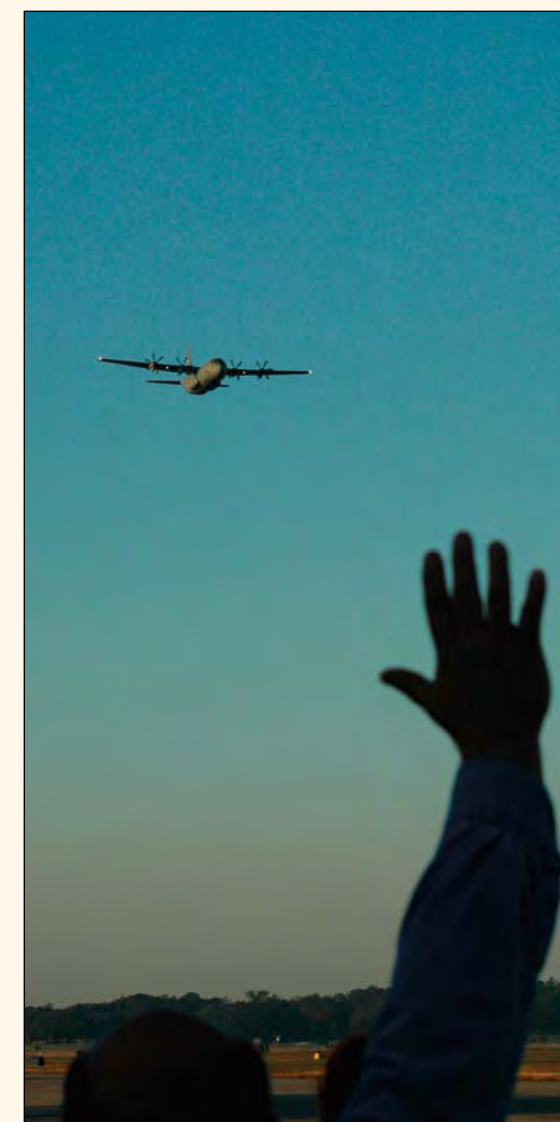
with the performance of the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Mark Sheehan, a C-130J pilot and operations officer for the 745th EAS.

"Thus far, the aircraft has successfully completed all missions in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Horn of Africa," he said. "Due to the increased performance of the aircraft, the missions are completed faster and at safer altitudes. In some cases the J-model is capable of completing a mission in one crew day that would require two days in the older models of the C-130."

"The aircraft's larger cargo compartment and increased engine performance allows twice as much cargo weight to be carried on each mission," he said. "This translates into fewer aircraft being exposed to potential threats from insurgents, greater terrain clearance over the mountains of Afghanistan and lower operating costs for the Air Force. The accuracy of the navigation systems and integration of the Heads-Up Displays exponentially increases situational awareness and the overall safety of the aircraft."



(Top) Maj. Jeff, showed his sons Nick (left) and Tommy the heads-up display on the J-model before flying the first leg of the journey to Al Udeid, Qatar. (Center) Loadmaster, SSgt. Troy, observes as the J-model backs up. (Above) The crew waved an American flag to the crowd before taxiing down the runway moments before this sunrise takeoff. (Right) Families walked out on the apron and waved as the crew made a final pass over the airfield.





# One heck of a night

By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce  
Pilot receives Flying Cross Medal

Feb. 13, 2002 - Flying down a valley in Afghanistan at 9,500 feet through mountains up to 11,000 feet, Maj. Denson Tutwiler trailed behind in one of two Combat Shadow aircraft.

Overcast skies dimmed the moonlight, blackening the night and merging with the snow covered mountains, forming an illusion of a passageway through their night vision goggles. Major Tutwiler was soon to encounter a series of unfortunate events that would test his heroism and eventually earn him a Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism.

**The mission:** There was a high-value individual in Afghanistan who the Joint Special Operations Task

Force considered a person of interest.

"We were going to refuel some Army helicopters that were supporting forces for the mission. The plan was to head to an area north..." Major Tutwiler said then paused. "Well let's just say Central Afghanistan. We would refuel some Army helicopters, and then they would insert their teams and accomplish their mission."

After a quick mission brief, Major Tutwiler and his crew departed Pakistan and joined forces as a backup refueler to the lead aircraft, an active duty crew that had already been flying that night.

**It's freezing in here:** While climbing, Major Tutwiler's aircraft wouldn't properly pressurize due to a malfunctioning pressurization safety valve. With no plans to abort the mission, the crew strapped on their oxygen masks

adding to the more than 40 pounds of protective gear they were already wearing, and prepared for the freezing temperatures they would soon face from partial pressurization.

**Leading up to a series of unfortunate events:** The crew joined the lead aircraft and the three choppers.

Usually, refueling aircraft travel side-by-side so that if one breaks, the choppers can realign with the backup. However, based on the hostile environment, during this mission Major Tutwiler trailed behind the lead Shadow and kept his defensive systems active.

The fuzzy reality created from the NVGs made flying through the mountainous terrain similar to a blind mouse running through a maze.

"I could see with the goggles but if you look at the mountains the snow and the mist blended in; there wasn't much resolution. And even with goggles the weather progressively got worse throughout the mission."

One of the choppers was having trouble getting gas. The lead aircraft asked the helicopter commander what he would like to do at the end of the valley/refueling track.

With the target to the south, the lead suggested turning southwest through a cut in the valley. Agreeing, they turned through a canyon patch in the south.

**The first unfortunate event:** Tutwiler's navigator suggested they climb in altitude to be safe; the crew climbed 10,000 feet. As the lead started to climb, a helicopter having problems refueling moved in to try to refuel again - as it did, the helicopter's blades cut the left refueling hose.

"Its like old time vacuum cleaners, the hose will fly back into the refueling pod and whip around and tear everything up, so you have to shut the power off immediately," said Major Tutwiler.

Responding to the emergency, the lead aircraft stopped climbing for a moment.

**The second unfortunate event:** As Major Tutwiler continued to climb focusing on his aircraft, his co-pilot kept an eye on the lead aircraft.

As if it appeared from nowhere, the team focused in on a mountain ridge in their direct path. The helicopters climbed fast, but the lead aircraft didn't have the climb rate needed.

Major Tutwiler's copilot watched in horror as the lead aircraft collided with the ridge, bursting into a cloud of snow.

"First I thought everybody was dead - I mean, when my copilot said they all went in, I asked who, and he said all of them; they all went in," said Major Tutwiler.

"I crossed our ridgeline at 350 feet, descend down the other side and brought the flaps up, and there was total silence. My copilot called on the radio and asked if anyone was there."

One of the chopper pilots responded "lead aircraft went in, we're okay, and we already have a helicopter that's down and we see movement, some of your guys walking around."

**We have survivors:** Assuming command, Major Tutwiler started relaying real time information. "Okay we have survivors, we have people walking, we have one guy pinned in the aircraft, everybody's okay but one guy."

**Another unfortunate event:** The helicopters needed more gas; they weren't able to get all their fuel because the aircraft crashed.

"So I had to fly back through that valley, back into the long valley with the weather getting worse and refuel the three choppers."

Since the aircraft crashed 10,000 feet up the side of a mountain, the helicopters didn't have enough power to land fully fueled. They could

only take enough gas to work a little bit and then come back and get more fuel. For the next few hours Major Tutwiler refueled the choppers while they went back and forth to the crash site with paratroopers on board to get the troops out safely.

**We have company:** "I heard on the radio that above the crash site were a couple of F-18s, a B-52, and F-16s. I found out later that a reconnaissance plane saw natives climbing up the mountain. A lot of times if we lose an asset like that and the locals are going to get it, we'll bomb it before they can get to it," said Major Tutwiler. "After I called helicopters and spoke to the PJs to make sure they had everybody off safely, they bombed the crash site." After one more refueling, the choppers headed to their base in Afghanistan and Major Tutwiler headed back to Pakistan.

**For goodness sake, put away the AK-47:** Approaching the landing strip, the control tower radioed Major Tutwiler that a local in a truck had fired an AK-47 at the last aircraft that tried to land. Fortunately, Major Tutwiler performed a tactical approach and avoided further incident.

**A happy ending:** Major Tutwiler earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism on that dark night.





*It was Oct. 20, 2003, a typical morning at work  
for Jeanie Harmon, until the phone rang.*

*She answered expecting a routine call. Instead it was her cousin  
who told her - her brother, Charles Dedeaux, had shot himself.*

*In shock and in her work environment, it was all she could do  
to utter the word, "Okay." She hung up the phone and paused...*

## One step closer to change

By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce  
Staff Writer

Rivers of thoughts rushed through her mind; her heart sank as she thought to herself - "This couldn't be; this couldn't have happened..."

In shock and disbelief, she dialed her brother's cell phone, but his friend answered bringing more tragic news - her sister-in-law, Shantel, was dead. Mr. Dedeaux had shot her first, and then turned the gun on himself. Her brother was now in critical condition at the hospital.

She hung up the phone and calmly asked to be excused from work. Five minutes before she arrived at the hospital, her cell phone rang, piercing her heart once more. She didn't make it in time; her brother had passed.

Ever since that day, Mrs. Harmon has attempted to find closure on the tragic incident that dampened her life. To do this, she had to derive a positive outcome from this tragedy.

"I wanted to see what I could do to make a change," said Mrs. Harmon, a secretary at the 403rd Operations Group.

"I wanted to make our community aware of prevalence of domestic violence, and that it not only affects the victims, but their family. I realized I too was a victim of domestic violence, and I didn't know how or what I would do to help, but new God would pave me a way."

A week after her brother's funeral, Mrs. Harmon was listening to the radio when she heard Peggy Cuevas, an education coordinator and sexual assault specialist from the Gulf Coast

Women's Center for Nonviolence, discussing domestic violence awareness, highlighting the incident between her brother, his wife and two other people who died as a result of domestic violence that same day; ironically, these incidents occurred during domestic violence awareness month.

At the end of Mr. Cuevas's discussion, she listed a hotline number women could call for help, or individuals could call to volunteer for or donate to the shelter. Mrs. Harmon contacted them that day.

"She called us saying 'I want to help,'" said Rachel Lapointe, a volunteer coordinator with the shelter. "But what's different about Jeanie's story is that although domestic violence personally affected her life, she didn't want shelter and she didn't want counseling - she wanted to help."

"She wanted to make people aware of us to hopefully prevent a situation like hers happening to another family."

With the support of her husband Gary, a band of volunteers and the shelter, Mrs. Harmon planned the first Mississippi Gulf Coast Domestic Violence Awareness Walk-A-Thon.

The Walk-A-Thon was held a year after her incident on Oct. 30 during Domestic Violence Awareness Month at Jones Park in Gulfport.

More than 300 participants walked a mile while carrying awareness signs made by the St. John High School Honor Society and chanting "No more Domestic Violence."

While a DJ dished out upbeat tunes during the walk-a-thon, adults browsed through domestic violence displays and pamphlets set up by the

women's center, and meanwhile, children became art as they dropped by the face painting booth.

For the opening, a special guest and survivor of domestic violence, Ronda Washington, shared her story.

"She was a victim of domestic violence, and was eventually stabbed with a punctured lung, and she still went back; it was her daughter that finally gave her the courage to leave," said Mrs. Harmon.

"She told of why you stay, why you don't leave and why you go back if you do leave," she added.

"I feel like the walk-a-thon was extremely successful," said Mrs. Harmon. "Now I can put closure to this and move on."

"Now, when I hear of other cases of domestic violence, I feel the victims' hurt and pain, but I know if I can reach out to them and teach them, everything will be alright because I'm alright."

"Jeanie is a remarkable woman. She is inspiring in her dedication to ensure that other families recognize that violence in their homes affects more than just the targeted victim. It is also devastating to the children and the extended family," said Mrs. Cuevas. "Her strength is inspirational."

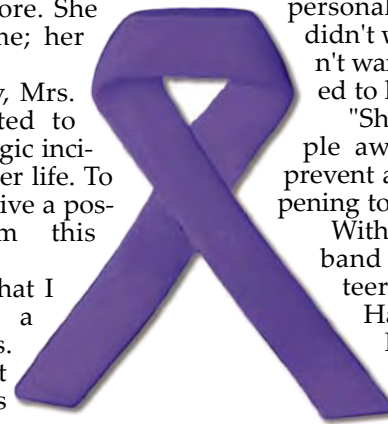
And with but one look back, she walks on.

Note:

The Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating family violence.

The center's services include shelter, counseling and advocacy to both adult and child victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and homicide in the six southern counties of Mississippi.

To contribute, or for any additional information, contact the Center at (228) 436-3809 or 1-800-800-1396.





# Keesler: Last stop for retiring 22 AF CCC

By TSgt. Michael Duhe  
Senior Staff Writer

The military career of 22nd Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant Charlie Lowe has come full circle. Just as he began his career as a young airman in tech school at Keesler AFB, he returned 35 years later in December to wrap it up with one final visit to the 403rd Wing.

"I wanted to come back to the place where it all started," he explained.

In August of 1969, Lowe and his wife were renting a house a few miles inland from the Biloxi coast while he attended technical training in avionics. Originally from Charleston, W.Va., the young couple would soon receive a rude initiation to life on the Gulf Coast.

They were looking forward to celebrating their first wedding anniversary on Aug. 17 with a visit to New Orleans. However, Hurricane Camille had a different kind of blowout in store for them. Weather experts initially said it would hit New Orleans. As the killer storm closed in on the Gulf Coast, its predicted path was moved easterly to the Gulfport area. Lowe and his wife chose to ride the storm out in Biloxi. A couple they were friends with lived closer to the beach and the Lowes helped them move some of their most valued possessions to their house the day before the storm hit.

"People were laughing at us, saying, 'We went through Betsy, it's not going to be anything serious,' and things like that," Chief Lowe said.

But with winds in excess of 200 mph and storm surges of over 20 feet, Hurricane Camille laughed last. Homes, businesses and even hurricane shelters were flattened, including the home of the couple who rode out the storm with the Lowes. The decision possibly saved their lives, as the storm's death toll ultimately exceeded 250.

"That was the scariest day of my life," Chief Lowe recalled. "I'd never been through anything like that."

Not all of the chief's memories of Keesler are as heavy as his scary experience riding out Hurricane Camille as later visits to the base were far less dramatic. He fondly recalled spending the afternoon of Dec. 5, 2003, on the



Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Lowe, 22nd AF CCC

Keesler Golf Course, where he shot his first hole-in-one. As if a visit from the hole-in-one fairy wasn't memorable enough, a stork brought him another pleasant surprise on that day - his first grandson.

After completing tech school in 1969, Chief Lowe's first active-duty assignment was at Charleston AFB, South Carolina, with a unit that flew the C-141 Starlifter. His first job involved working with radars. Six months before his enlistment ended, he submitted paperwork for an Air Reserve Technician job for the same profession. It couldn't have worked out better for him. His last day of active duty was a Friday; he showed up at work Monday as an ART.

He remained an ART until 1977 in order to better his chances at making rank. He managed to land a job in the radar section as a traditional reservist with what's now the 315th airlift squadron and found a civilian job in the Doppler Radar Section. In 1985, he began working in his current civilian job in Air Force engineering and technical services. This now involves combat systems on the C-17.

He was offered the 22nd AF Command Chief Master Sergeant position five years ago, and he readily accepted, allowing him to remain in Charleston. In his new role, Chief

Lowe's travel schedule was hectic. At one time, it involved working closely with 15 wings in various states, from Minnesota to Massachusetts to Mississippi. He spent approximately 140 days out of the year away from his civilian job, which involves learning the continuous series of new avionics systems that go onto the C-17. Chief Lowe said he always looked forward to his visits to Keesler. Last month, he visited and talked with 403rd troops in the flying squadrons, AES, maintenance, civil engineer, services and personnel in the wing headquarters building.

Chief Lowe said he always strived to keep his visits as informal as possible in order to create a comfortable environment for troops to ask questions. During a typical visit to a unit during UTA weekends, he would talk to troops in work centers, meetings, and in break rooms, gauging morale and seeing if there were any issues that needed to be elevated above the wing level. He said it was also an effective way of keeping the 22nd AF commander aware of the current mood and concerns among the units. He would spend Friday talking to ARTs, and the following two UTA days meeting with traditional reservists.

"I always liked to spend three days so that I could get the chance to talk to as many people as possible," he explained. "What I didn't want to do was interrupt any training or work. That's why I tried not to be on a schedule. I always found it easier to talk in the break rooms, or talk to them as they were working. You find out a lot more. They feel like they can talk to you."

Chief Lowe believes there is something especially gratifying about the command chief master sergeant's role.

"I've had a super career and I've enjoyed every single job I've had," he commented. "I was really satisfied as a first sergeant....It's a great job, but command chief master sergeant is even better. A first sergeant kind of wears a black hat and a white hat, but a command chief wears a white hat. People come to you seeking answers to their problems. This is the best job there is in the Air Force. I have no regrets and I'd do it all over again. I've loved it from day one."

## Spouse Pins

In November the Air Force launched the Spouse Pin program to recognize the hardships and sacrifices made by military and civilian families as the nation continues to wage war on terrorism. Through a Web-based program, service members and Air Force civilians can log on to [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com) and register their spouses for a personalized letter signed by the secretary of the Air Force and the chief of staff with an accompanying one-inch silver lapel pin.

## Recruiting Project

The 403rd Wing Recruiting Office is requesting support from reservists in placing recruiting literature at area businesses. If you own or work at a business that would like to show support for the Air Force Reserve, please contact the Recruiting office at 377-5236, or stop by Bldg. 904 Rm., 136. If you frequently visit a business that you feel may support this program, please provide its name and location to the Recruiting Office. This is an exciting way for Reservists to become involved in the recruiting process and to show the public that the Air Force Reserve is composed of members in their own community.

## MPF Hours

Military Personnel Flight customer service hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on UTA weekends.

This section serves as the initial point of contact between the customer and other MPF work centers. It also administers the casualty assistance program, family member dental plan, identification card benefits and

privileges and assists personnel with immigration and naturalization services. This section is also point of contact for the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, establishing and maintaining the unit personnel record group, and awards and decorations.

## Chapel Service

To better serve the needs of members of the 403rd, the chapel service presently held in Larcher Chapel will move to the 815th AS auditorium beginning this UTA. The time remains at 7:15 a.m. but the location will change. The chapel staff is always looking for ways to better serve our members and welcomes your input. The chaplains can be reached at 377-0400.

## Medical Jobs

A new Air Force Reserve Health Professions Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. George Adams, is now based at Keesler in the Sablich Center.

The Air Force Reserve is in search of qualified health professionals to join its highly skilled teams. Unit members are encouraged to use the Get One Program [www.afreserve.com/getone](http://www.afreserve.com/getone) to submit potential applicants and receive recognition. The following critical AFSCs are available in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida units: 44M3, 44Y3, 46F3, 46P3, 47G3, and 48R3. Applicants may even be eligible for a signing bonus or loan repayment. For information and eligibility criteria, contact Sergeant Adams at 228-377-8332 or e-mail [george.adams@keesler.af.mil](mailto:george.adams@keesler.af.mil)

## Flu Shots

Deployed and deploying servicemembers are among the priority groups to receive

the flu vaccine. All high-risk beneficiaries and all operationally deployed servicemembers will be vaccinated on time this flu season. Healthy servicemembers who are not scheduled for deployment will be deferred from receiving the vaccination until the more critical categories receive their shots.

Troops deployed to the U.S. Central Command theater of operations and to South Korea are DoD's highest priority.

## College Money

Reservists activated to fight the war on terror can get more money for college through the Selected Reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill. Full-time students normally draw a max of \$288 a month. Full-time students activated for 90 days to a year can draw a max of \$402 a month.

Those who serve 1-2 years can get up to \$602 for 1-2 years. The amount goes to a max of \$803 for more than 2 years.

# Gulf Wing Reflections

Originally printed in the wing magazine, December 1997



File Photo

## Teaming up

The 815th Airlift Squadron supplied crews and aircraft in support of Operation Joint Gaurd in October. This was the first time since June 1994 that Reservists joined with Air National Guard units as one team to launch C-130s from Germany to support peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia.

### What's Happening?

Know of an upcoming exercise or unit deployment? Are there special events planned at your unit? Contact your Unit Public Affairs Rep or call Public Affairs at 377-2056.



# Gen. Tanzi selected as AFRC vice commander

By 1st Lt. Lance Patterson  
AFRC Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.**— Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi will return here in January to serve as vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

He will replace Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., who will retire after he relinquishes his post to General Tanzi Jan. 21.

General Tanzi currently commands 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas.

Before that assignment, he was director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC, Robins AFB, from February 1999 to March 2002.

Other assignments include:

Commander of the 419th Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah, from July 1993 to February 1999.

Commander of the 906th Fighter

Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from July 1987 to July 1993.

Deputy commander for operations and later commander of the 917th Tactical Fighter Group, Barksdale AFB, La., from December 1985 to July 1987.

As the vice commander of the Air Force Reserve, General Tanzi will oversee AFRC daily operations.

General Tanzi is a native of Hanover, N.H. He entered the Air Force through the Ohio Air National Guard in 1968 and earned his wings in 1970. A fighter weapons school graduate, he has held several supervisory and command positions to include serving as a squadron commander.

General Tanzi is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours in several fighter aircraft. He flew combat missions over northern Iraq in support of Operation Provide Comfort II. The general retired from civil service Dec. 3. He is now a full-time reservist in the

Active Guard and Reserve program.



Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi

## 2005 Reserve Pay for Four Drills

### Years of Service

	Under 2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22	Over 24	Over 26
O-7	888.80	930.08	949.20	964.40	991.88	1,019.00	1,050.44	1,081.80	1,113.20	1,211.92	1,295.28	1,295.28	1,295.28	1,295.28	1,301.84
O-6	658.76	723.72	771.20	771.20	774.12	807.32	811.72	811.72	857.84	939.40	987.28	1,035.12	1,062.36	1,089.88	1,143.40
O-5	549.16	618.64	661.48	669.52	696.20	712.24	747.40	773.20	806.48	857.48	881.76	905.76	933.00	933.00	933.00
O-4	473.84	548.52	585.12	593.28	627.24	663.68	709.00	744.36	768.88	782.96	791.16	791.16	791.16	791.16	791.16
O-3	416.60	472.28	509.76	555.76	582.36	611.56	630.48	661.60	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76
O-2	359.92	409.96	472.16	488.12	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16
O-1	312.48	325.20	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08
O-3E	0	0	0	555.76	582.36	611.56	630.48	661.60	687.80	702.80	723.28	0	0	0	0
O-2E	0	0	0	488.12	498.16	514.04	540.76	561.48	576.88	576.88	576.88	0	0	0	0
O-1E	0	0	0	393.08	419.84	435.32	451.16	466.76	488.12	488.12	488.12	0	0	0	0
E-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	520.16	531.96	546.80	564.32	581.88	610.12	634.00	659.16	697.56
E-8	0	0	0	0	0	425.80	444.64	456.28	470.28	485.40	512.72	526.56	550.12	563.20	595.36
E-7	296.00	323.08	335.44	351.84	364.60	386.60	398.96	411.28	433.28	444.32	454.76	461.16	482.72	496.68	532.00
E-6	256.04	281.68	294.12	306.20	318.80	347.24	358.28	370.56	381.32	385.16	387.76	387.76	387.76	387.76	387.76
E-5	234.60	250.28	262.36	274.76	294.04	310.64	322.88	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76
E-4	215.04	226.08	238.28	250.36	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04
E-3	194.16	206.36	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80
E-2	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60	184.60

# Welcome to 2005

## Commander looks forward to productive year

By Brig. Gen. Richard Moss  
Commander, 403rd Wing

Welcome back after the New Year. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and enjoyed the time with family and friends.

As we start the New Year, it is always good to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. The men and women of the 403d performed magnificently to every task. Whether it was completing Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection (EORI) requirements, supporting the National Hurricane Plan during the second busiest hurricane season on record, deploying around the world supporting the war against terrorism, or supporting the airlift requirements for Presidential support, we met every challenge. We also continued our transition to the C-130J model aircraft and participated in the first ever deployment of the C-130J to Southwest Asia. Overall, it was a busy and remarkable year.

We cannot rest on our laurels from the past year. 2005 will present some of the same challenges, as well as new and different ones. Our primary goal is to complete the C-130J conversion, transition the weather reconnaissance completely to the WC-130J, and to retire or transfer the C-130 Super Es. To accomplish this, it will require extensive training for aircrew and maintenance personnel. However, our other goal is to increase the operational readiness of the Wing. To meet this goal, we will conduct several exercises involving our mobility process and our ability to survive and operate in a wartime environment. This will help prepare our personnel who still have to complete EORI requirements. More importantly, it will better prepare our personnel who are tasked to deploy and support the active component and our nation in the Global War on Terror.

To meet these challenges, we must always remember why we are mem-



Brig. Gen. Richard Moss, Commander

bers of the Air Force Reserve and this Wing - to always be ready to meet our peacetime and wartime tasks. Unit commanders need to ensure their personnel are provided the necessary training to meet all wartime skill requirements in their AFSC and have the training required to operate and survive in a wartime environment. Each individual needs to take personal responsibility to ensure they take advantage of training opportunities and request training if they feel they need it to be proficient - either in mobility areas (such as chemical warfare, self aid and buddy care, weapons qualification, etc) or in basic AFSC skills. Our personnel are our most valuable asset. We must ensure no one deploys without the proper training or equipment necessary to be able to perform their wartime tasks. This requires a team effort between commanders and individual reservists to make it happen.

It also requires we all adhere to some basic beliefs guided by the Air Force Core Values - INTEGRITY FIRST, EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO, and SERVICE BEFORE SELF. These

core values are not slogans but basic beliefs that guide our behavior and our actions. The core values are reinforced by basic guiding principles that should dictate everyone's actions:

- Our people are our most important asset. Their talents, skills, and dedication enable this Wing to do its critical role in supporting our nation. We take the time to recognize them for their contributions. We take care of each other.
- We treat each other with mutual respect and trust. We never tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment.
- We mentor each other to improve our current performance and to develop each individual's future potential as a leader.
- We encourage creativity and innovativeness. We strive to find ways we can make our limited time and resources more productive and cost effective. We always ask the question - "Is this the best way to do it?"
- We value the tremendous support our civilian employees, families and employers give to us. We appreciate the sacrifices they make so we can perform our reserve duties.
- We are a team - dependent upon each other to achieve success. No one, no unit can accomplish the same results we can accomplish if we work together, communicate our needs to each other, and always strive to do those things that benefit the Wing first and the individual second.
- We set the example in all areas - professional behavior, professional bearing, and adherence to the rules. We will be known as the Wing that does things right.

We will continue to be challenged with new demands. We are capable of meeting and exceeding these because of you - the individual reservist. Your talents, experience, and dedication are what enable this Wing to accomplish the tremendous support we provide to our nation. Thanks for all you do.





Photo By SSgt. J. Justin Pearce

## Spin Doctor

Like unscrewing a huge bottle cap, Airman 1st Class Shawn McCollough, engine mechanic, 403rd AMXS, removes the dome from a propeller to test its hydraulic seals, which hold the blade at its desired angle. This test pressure checks the propeller to assure it is operational when attached to the aircraft.

## Gulf Wing Go-Getter



Each month Gulf Wing is printed for people of the 403rd Wing, like SrA Tanisha Lofton of the 403rd Mission Support Flight.

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To The Family Of: