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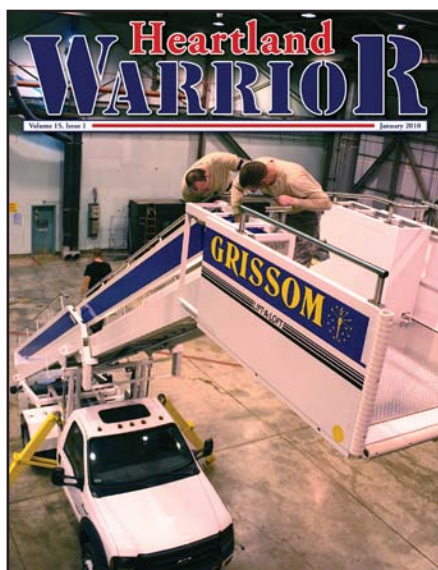
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Tech. Sgt. Cory Fields, left, and Tech. Sgt. Sean Kelly, aircraft structural maintenance specialists with the 434th Maintenance Squadron, put the finishing touches on trim decals applied to the outside surface of a stairway truck side support. Several of these vehicles were recently acquired for use in loading passengers into Grissom's fleet of KC-135R Stratotankers. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen)

2010 Defense Budget now law

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Defense officials are hailing passage of the fiscal 2010 budget that funds military programs and wartime operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and provides a military pay raise.

President Barack Obama signed the 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act into law Dec. 19 after the Senate approved it during a rare early Saturday session.

The Senate passed the measure by an 88-to-10 vote.

The \$636.3 billion legislation provides \$128.3 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a 3.4 percent military pay raise.

The law also extends various authorities and other non-defense fiscal 2010 appropriations, White

House officials announced. Most of those provisions involved temporary extensions of emergency unemployment and health-care benefits that had been set to expire.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates issued a joint statement Dec. 18, pressing the Senate for action.

"We strongly urge Senate passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill today, prior to expiration of the current continuing resolution," the statement said. "Passage today will provide important support for our foreign policy and national security priorities and ensure continuity of funding for our troops in combat and for all of the Department of Defense."

The House passed the legislation Dec. 16.

I am an American Airman.

I am a warrior.

I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American Airman.

My mission is to fly, fight, and win.

I am faithful to a proud heritage,

A tradition of honor,

And a legacy of valor.

I am an American Airman,

Guardian of freedom and justice,

My nation's sword and shield,

Its sentry and avenger.

I defend my country with my life.

I am an American Airman;

Wingman, leader, warrior.

I will never leave an airman behind,

I will never falter,

And I will not fail.

Engineer recognized during Army ceremony

By Master Sgt. Craig Pickett

PFI Senior Enlisted Advisor

INDIANAPOLIS – December for most people means crowded malls and figuring out the best gift for the in-laws, but for many service members, it also means dusting off the dress uniform.

It was no different for members of Personnel Force Innovation headquartered at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis.

The joint staff doffed their utility uniform and donned their formal wear for a formal inspection.

Soldiers sported the classic green dress uniform, while some wore the new Army Service Uniform in light and dark blues. Airmen looked sharp in their own unique uniform of dark blue.

All had highly shined shoes on their feet and colorful ribbons on their chest.

Drill and ceremony moves had been practiced and nearly perfected for the formal in-ranks inspection conducted by Col. Mark Rutkowski, PFI director.

The service members stood tall and looked straight ahead as the colonel moved up and down the line looking for any imperfections; whether misaligned badges or tarnished brass.

Also present for the inspection were various DFAS employees and supervisors.

It was a unique opportunity for them to see some of the formality surrounding military duty. They are use to seeing service members working around the building in their pixilated camouflage patterns, but the crisp, emblazoned dress uniforms caught their attention.

“Throughout my civilian career, I have had the opportunity to attend several military retirement ceremonies,” said Joe Oshinski, Acting Personnel Security Officer, DFAS-HR. “However, this was the first time I witnessed a formal December 2009



Master Sgt. Kevin Stath receives the Defense Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Mark Rutkowski, director of personnel force innovation at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Indianapolis. Sergeant Stath structural craftsman with the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron, and currently on an active duty tour with PFI. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Craig Pickett)

in-ranks inspection. It was impressive to see the military officers and enlisted members dressed in their Class A uniforms.”

“I would encourage my colleagues, if the opportunity presents itself, to attend a formal in-ranks inspection. By attending the inspection, you are demonstrating your appreciation to our service members for the sacrifices they make everyday to protect our freedom.”

After the inspection, Colonel Rutkowski presented the Defense Meritorious Service Award to Air Force Master Sgt. Kevin Stath, an Air Force structural craftsman.

For the past year, Stath served as the personnel noncommissioned officer in charge of the PFI staff. Sergeant said he would have liked to stay at DFAS longer, but must return to his unit, -- the 434th Civil Engineer Squadron -- at Grissom Air Reserve Base.

“I would have to say that my PFI tour was one of the most rewarding tours that I have been on either on

active duty or as a reservist,” said Stath. “This was my first joint tour and I have gained knowledge that I believe I would never have gained as a Civil Engineer in the U.S. Air Force. Although at times it was a trying experience to overcome the differences between the Army and the Air Force, the end result was that a DoD Agency filled a critical need and the service member was given the chance to use his or her experience to help out the overall mission of the United States.”

Also in attendance were Sergeant Stath’s mother and his brother who both drove over 100 miles to see the ceremony.

His mother said she rarely gets to see her son in his dress uniform and enjoyed the opportunity to visit the DFAS facility and watch her son in action.

“I was truly proud to have my mother and brother attend the ceremony,” said Stath. “This was the first time in my 22 years in the service that my family was able to see a function such as this.



Getting ready

Captain John Kutcka, an administrative officer with the 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, conducts a self inspection of files in preparation for the squadron's health services inspection scheduled for 2010. (Air Force photo illustration/Staff Sgt. Chris Bolen)

In the limelight....

Promotions

To Airman – Megan VanPelt, 434th Mission Support Flight; Joseph Hyatt, 434th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; and Qiana Jackson, 434th AMDS.

To Airman 1st Class – Dale Komula, 434th Operations Support Squadron; George Tselos, 434th Services Flight; Amanda White, 434th SVF; Jeremy Wilburn, 434th AMDS; and Iveelyn Zorca, 434th SVF.

To Senior Airman – Aubrey Able, 434th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Natalie Howe, 434th SVF; and Julian Torres, 434th Security Forces



Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Cassidy, left, 434th Maintenance Group, stands with other inductees during a promotion ceremony held on the December unit training assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Doug Hays)

Squadron.

To staff sergeant – Shawn Colaizzi, 434th Civil Engineer Squadron; Zachary Ponder, 434th AMXS; Michael Sawyer, AMXS; Daniel

Wehr, 434th AMXS; Ashley Zumbrun, 434th Maintenance Squadron.

To technical sergeant – Mark Orders-Woempner, 434th Air Refueling Wing; Jason Bireley, 72nd Air Refueling Squadron; Tanisha Silva, 434th SVF; Ryan Walls, 434th AMXS; and Franklin Willis, 434th MXS.

To master sergeant – Scott Kirisits, 434th Maintenance Group; Brian

Remington, 434th MXS; and Misty Ross, 434th SVF.

To chief master sergeant – Kevin Cassidy, 434th MXG.

Heartland Warrior

Air Force releases mission statement

by Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement recently that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass"

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes daily:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary defined.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," he said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

Cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and information sharing.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world."

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," he said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

December 2009



Keepin' it clean

Staff Sgt. Patrick Barringer, 434th Security Forces Squadron, cleans his patrol car before leaving his shift on the December unit training assembly (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Mark Orders-Woempner)



A U.S. Air Force carry team transfers the remains of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Anthony C. Campbell Jr., of Florence, Ky., at Dover Air Force Base, Del., December 16. Tech. Sgt. Campbell was assigned to the 932nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Air Force Reserve, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Sergeant Campbell Jr., 35, died Dec. 15 of wounds suffered from the detonation of an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Roland Balik)

AFRC loses Airman in Operation Enduring Freedom

By Maj. Stan Paregien

932nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

SCOTT AFB, Ill. -- The Department of Defense announced the death of a 932nd Airlift Wing airman who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Campbell Jr., 35, of Florence, Ky., died Dec. 15 of wounds suffered from the detonation of an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Campbell was assigned to the 932nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"It is with deep regret that our

wing learned of the tragic loss of one of our airmen. Tech. Sgt. Anthony Campbell, was killed in action while in service to his country. Tony was deployed in support of our mission in the Operation Enduring Freedom theater," said Col. William Edwards, Jr., commander of the 932nd Airlift Wing.

"His efforts, and those of his teammates, were - and are - invaluable to the thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who continue to serve in harm's way - and I dare say we will never know how many lives he and his comrades have saved as a result of their courageous and selfless efforts over

the past years," Colonel Edwards added.

"While I know that we all feel a great loss at this time, I ask that you keep his family in your thoughts and prayers - as theirs is a grief that I can only try to imagine today and in the days to come. The 932 Airlift Wing will shed many tears, but we will all know that Sergeant Anthony Campbell is a "hero" by any definition - and I know that I speak for everyone in saying that we are proud to call him "one of ours" and a "friend to all". Our thoughts and prayers are unavoidably focused today - and rightly so," said the commander.