

# Reservists work to thwart insurgents

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
 Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.**, – Destruction. Chaos. Killing American troops. Iraq insurgents attempt to achieve these goals by using Improvised Explosive Devices. However, the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists here take personal enjoyment in continuously thwarting those efforts.

Since May 2003, nine Air Force Reserve EOD specialists from McChord have spent a combined total of 1,034 days in Southwest Asia, said Master Sgt. Chris Rumley, EOD program manager.

During that time, the Reservists have responded to 18 IED calls, 625 surface-to-air missiles, 1,292 flares, and disposed of



Photo by Abner Guzman

Airman First Class Shawn Lundgren approaches a device using a Percussion Actuated Neutralizer during a render safe procedure exercise. Airman Lundgren is an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron.

See EOD, Page 3

# Security forces police Kadena AB

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
 Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.**, – Responding for a call for help, 13 Reservists from the 446th Security Forces Squadron deployed to Kadena AB, Japan, Feb. 28 to backfill a base depleted of security manpower.

Headquarters Pacific Air Force called for the manning assist at Kadena, where deployment taskings left the base's security forces squadron undermanned. The McChord team returned March 31, after an odd 31-day deployment.

"Normally the minimum tours are 60 days, and they are

funded directly by the Security Forces Center at Lackland (AFB, Texas)," said Master Sgt. Lyndon Deboma, 446th SFS operations manager. "PACAF funded the tour because they were that much in need of a squad to go to Kadena and backfill."

Led by Master Sgt. Kenneth Mazzuca, a veteran Seattle police officer, the team handled everything from securing the flightline to apprehending DUI suspects (of which they got three). Aside from police duties, the Reservists also supplemented ongoing training, such as weapons firing.

"Master Sgt. Dan VanZanten and Tech. Sgt. Bob Kampert

assisted the combat arms shop with weapons training. Joining the Kadena firing line staff, the two Reserve NCOs helped weapons qualify more than 300 students," said Sergeant Mazzuca said.

Sergeants VanZanten and Kampert also performed pre and post deployment weapons inspections, and assisted the Marine Corps gunsmith shop at Camp Hansen, Japan, with technical support and training materials.

Weapons training was not all that was provided at Kadena. Other training included the kind that can get you a ticket.

"Tech. Sgt. Mike Pate conducted four Radar/Lidar (speed

guns) operators training courses for flight members - including contract Japanese guards - and certified a total of 86 personnel," added Sergeant Mazzuca.

Valuable experience was also gained by McChord's Reservists while at Kadena.

"Involvement with numerous security and law enforcement incidents provided great training typically unavailable here," said Sergeant Mazzuca.

According to Sergeant Deboma, the 446th SFS Airmen are looking forward to more deployments. The training and experience gained is as valuable to Reservists as the extra hands are to supported units.

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May 25 is the deadline for articles in the June issue of **The 446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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# ORI, summer safety both critical topics to focus on

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree  
Wing commander

The obvious topic for this month is the upcoming operational readiness inspection, also known as the ORI. I had the opportunity to speak to the people going on the practice exercise in early May. At their all-players briefing before deploying, the three emphasis areas for them were a positive attitude, operational security and communications security, and safety.

My message, which will remain the same for the ORI in June, is that whether you are deploying to Alpena, going to one of the forward operating locations, or staying here at McChord to help with deployment and redeployment, take this very seriously. It is our opportunity to prove to the Air Mobility Command and ourselves that we are ready to go to support wartime operations and contingencies.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Air Mobility Command Phoenix Rally Conference two weeks ago. There were several highlights that will affect us here at McChord and around the Air Force. Gen. Duncan McNabb, AMC commander, laid out some challenging things that are happening throughout AMC.

AMC is looking at how to

sustain the current war effort as Reserve and National Guard members run out of mobilization authority. You have probably heard the rumors that the active duty will be going to 120 day rotations for their flying operations. This will give them some more predictability and a better quality of life while allowing members of the Reserve Component to get back to a more traditional Reserve role of short deployments and flexible scheduling.

AMC is trying to get funding to keep the C-17 production line open. Recent meetings with Congress have highlighted the fact that we are wearing out C-17s at a more accelerated rate than planned; therefore we will need replacements sooner than originally programmed. Funding is also being sought to procure a new theater airlift aircraft to move small loads within a war theater. This is in response to the Army's need to move small loads and numbers of people to austere locations quickly as they become lighter, leaner and more agile.

One of General McNabb's top priorities is to field the Joint Precision Airdrop System as soon as possible. This system will be the airdrop version of the JDAMS bombing system the fighters and bombers use. It will provide the capability to airdrop supplies



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

and equipment to a precise set of global positioning satellite coordinates, and have the load steer itself to the exact point of impact. This will allow much more flexibility and combat survivability for our aircraft and crews, while better supporting our customers. Expect to see it operational within the next year.

Finally, we are entering the critical summer season for safety. Please think about safety in everything you and your family do during this critical time. Motorcycle safety is a high interest item because there are so many people in the Air Force injured and killed riding them. If you are a rider, be careful and vigilant wherever you go. Take care, be safe, and keep up the good work.

## 101 Critical Days of Summer

Be safe. Visit [www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/se](http://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/se) for tips on safety and familiarize yourself with the weekly slide show expanding on summer safety topics.

# Reservists win numerous awards

By Sandra Pishner  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – It's an epidemic, with more and more Reservists affected each day. The source of this epidemic of awards can only be traced to the professionalism and quality of Reservists in the 446th Airlift Wing, according to Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, wing commander.

Within the last six weeks, 11 awards, ranging from wing level to the Air Force Reserve Command level, have been announced.

Earning the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Operations 2005 Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Members of the Year Awards are Senior Master Sgt. James Masura Jr.,

446th Operations Group, senior NCO category, and Tech. Sgt. Paul Understeller, 728th Airlift Squadron.

Senior Airman Lyn Yin, 728th AS, first won the 4th Air Force 2006 American Legion Spirit of Service Award, then was named the winner of the AFRC 2006 American Legion Spirit of Service Award. She will now be considered for the Air Force-level award.

Also winning 4th Air Force-level and the AFRC-level awards are Capt. Lara Wills, 728th AS, and Tech. Sgt. Charles King, 446th Maintenance Squadron. Both won the 2006 AF Airlift Tanker Association Young Leadership Award at 4th AF and AFRC, in the officer and enlisted categories respectively.

In a demonstration of the value of Reservists to the ac-

tive-duty's Air Mobility Command, two wing Airmen earned recognition.

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Morris, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the AMC Reserve Associate Maintenance Superintendent of the Year for 2005, and Tech. Sgt. Robert Farrell, 446th AMXS, is the AMC Reserve Associate Maintenance Technician of the Year.

In another Air Force Association award program, Lt. Col. James Kline, 313th Airlift Squadron, has been named Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Civilian Employee for 2005, senior manager program. Colonel Kline is an air reserve technician.

Also winning this award, in the wage employee category, is Staff Sgt. James Martin, 446th AMXS.

The 2006 4th Air Force Paralegal of the Year is Tech. Sgt. Erika McFarlane, 446th Airlift Wing. Sergeant McFarlane will represent 4th AF at the AFRC-level competition.

In the 2005 AFRC Media Competition, Senior Airman Paul Haley won first place in the commentary writing category, and Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel was named AFRC Outstanding New Writer of the Year.

At the wing level, the award winners for the first quarter of 2006 are Senior Airman Brian McSweeney, 446th AMXS, Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Atwell, 446th Maintenance Squadron, and Master Sgt. Marshall Delinger, 728th AS. Each won in their respective category of Airman, NCO, or Senior NCO.

## EOD

Continued from Page 1

more than 40,000 explosive items.

Tech. Sgt. David Ewbank, EOD flight team leader, went on his fourth deployment in March, joining another McChord Reservist already there.

"It is how you get experience," said Sergeant Ewbank. "As an EOD specialist, if you don't deploy, you're like a doctor who never sees patients ... what good are you?"

Overseas, EOD specialists perform a dangerous mission every day to make the country safer for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians.

"I'm excited to deploy to Iraq because I'll be at the forefront of new bomb design and inventions," said Sergeant Ewbank. "The insurgents are always coming up with something new and I like countering it."

Master Sgt. James Coley, who just returned from a four-month deployment, has been activated twice for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Our biggest threat was improvised explosive devices," said Sergeant Coley, who

was the flight chief for EOD in Kyrgyzstan. "We responded to suspicious packages and rotated in and out of Afghanistan.

"A typical day for us would be a combination of training and responding to incidents and also conducting training for foreign national and coalition forces," said Sergeant Coley.

Now that he's back, his job will be to pass on the lessons learned and help prepare the next wave of Airmen to face the IED threat.

One of those Airmen is Tech. Sgt. William Warrick, a former active-duty security forces dog handler, who graduated from EOD technical school in November 2005.

"At (technical) school, they can only show you a certain amount because of limited time," said Sergeant Warrick. "Here, we go through everything from A to Z and put it all together."

Once Sergeant Warrick's training is complete, he plans on volunteering to deploy.

"It would be very frustrating to train and train, but never get the chance to deploy to take what you learn and apply it," said Sergeant Warrick.

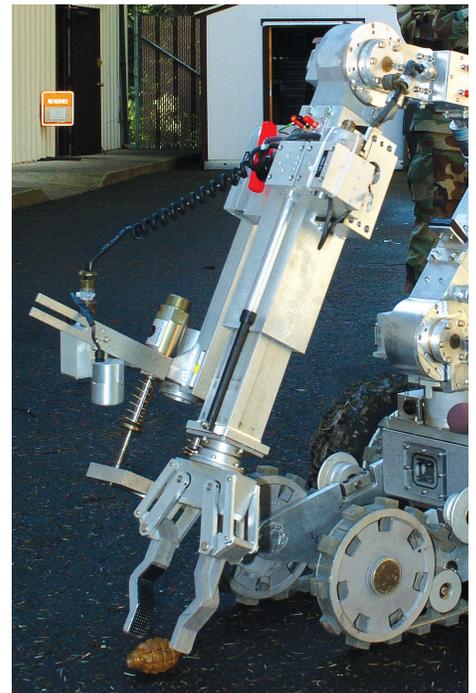


Photo by Abner Guzman  
**Explosive ordnance disposal Reservists operate the Remotec Andros robot to safely handle some explosives.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Sforza  
**Tunisian and U.S. military medical personnel load a stretcher onto a waiting Tunisian helicopter during a mass casualty exercise for MEDLITE 2006 at Kharrouba Air Base in Bizerte, Tunisia. MEDLITE 2006 provides an exchange of medical skills, techniques and procedures between American Air Force medical Service Airmen and the Tunisian Military Health Services. Six Reservists from the 446th Airlift Wing participated in the exercise.**

## Reservists share medical skills overseas

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
 —Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — Six 446th Airlift Wing medical people traveled to Tunisia in April for a Joint Chiefs of Staff International Health Specialist tour, called MEDLITE 06, to enhance the Tunisian military's medical training.

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron and 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron Airmen went to the cities of Tunis and Bizerte for a specific objective: enhance medical training, and the partnership and cooperation between our two countries' medical services.

Maj. Robert Berg, Tech. Sgt. Carrie Barron, Master Sgt. Kenneth Bielas, and Maj. Howard Harvey from the 446th ASTS, and Col. Dennis Robertson and Master Sgt. Linda Barnhart from the 446th AMDS, were six of about 52 U.S. military people and 220 Tunisian military personnel participating in MEDLITE.

The 446th ASTS team provided hands-on training in CPR, advanced cardiac life support, advanced trauma life support, emergency medical technician training, and medical treatment of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives casualties.

The 446th AMDS team was part of the six-member hospital exchange team working with their specialist counterparts at the

military hospital in Tunis.

"Our (the ASTS team) job is to enhance the continuing medical education for the Tunisian medical community with the most current U.S. medical research and techniques, not to treat patients," said Major Berg,

who served as the director and instructor of advanced cardiac life support. "The instructors are considered subject matter experts in their field. They will be teaching abbreviated components of ACLS (a d v a n c e

"Communication was at times a challenge, but having the younger dental residents to translate worked well."

—Col. Dennis Robertson

cardio life support), advanced trauma life support, pre-hospital trauma life support and emergency medical technician courses."

Sergeant Barron taught pre-hospital trauma life support, while Sergeant Bielas and Major Harvey taught critical care air transportation.

"From a medical standpoint, we hope to greatly enhance the Tunisian military's doctors', nurses', and paramedics' continuing education in arenas the U.S. takes

for granted," said Major Berg. "All these classes we teach are required for our civilian and military jobs here and are easily available for us to take. However, we may be the singular resource in 2006 for the Tunisian military medical community to receive the latest life saving research and techniques."

The 446th AMDS hospital team took their training tasks in a different direction.

Colonel Robertson and Sergeant Barnhart worked in the hospital dental clinic each day with a different dental specialist. The work included case reviews, consultations, and providing patient care. The patients were Tunisian military members, their dependents, and some civilians. Specialty care included prosthodontics, implantology, oral surgery, periodontics, and hospital operating room procedures.

"Communication was at times a challenge, but having the younger dental residents to translate worked well," said Colonel Robertson. "The dental residents were in their sixth and final year of dental school and the specialists were military officers and professors at the Tunisian dental school. They were quite helpful and they enjoyed exchanging professional knowledge, clinical procedures and protocols of patient care."

Overall, MEDLITE 06 was considered a success by the 446th AW Reservists.

# Disposition instructions mandatory on personnel record of emergency data card

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** – Airmen must designate one immediate family member as the person authorized to direct disposition of their remains, PADD for short, should they become a casualty.

The designation of a PADD will become a part of the member's Record of Emergency Data, as required by law.

Most Airmen will add the information to their virtual Record of Emergency Data by following the instructions in the Virtual MPF. People at deployed locations need to contact their personnel support for contingency operations team to update their record.

Organizations using the DD Form 93 or the United States Air

Force Academy Form to record emergency data must ensure Airmen are briefed on this new requirement and designate their PADD in the remarks section.

PADD information should include the designated person's name, relationship to member, address with zip code and telephone number.

The PADD will be respon-

sible for the disposition of remains only. The member is still required to designate separately the recipients of any other benefits and entitlements.

For more information or for questions concerning the PADD designation call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

## Identity theft increasing problem

# Awareness first step in avoiding being victim

**MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan., (AFPN)** – Identity theft is an increasingly common occurrence. Two studies concluded there were 7 million victims between June 2002 and 2003. The Federal Trade Commission number is closer to 10 million, but also includes credit card takeovers.

According to the FTC, identity theft is the most common form of consumer fraud, with thefts totaling more than \$100 million from financial institutions, an average of more than \$7,000 per victim.

Since law enforcement nationwide does not often collect statistics about ID theft, there is no one answer; however, the growth rate was estimated to be about 25 percent in this crime between 2003 and 2005. Estimates on losses range from \$100 million to more than \$1 billion.

With awareness comes the ability to avoid becoming a victim.

Despite your efforts to manage the flow of personal information or to keep it to yourself, skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to gain access to your data, such as stealing records or information while they're on the job, bribing an employee who has access to these records, hacking these records, or conning information out of employees. Other methods include stealing mail, rummaging through trash or stealing your wallet. They may steal credit or debit card numbers by capturing the information in a data storage device in a practice known as "skimming." They may

## At A Glance

Handy numbers to have when fighting identity theft include:

Social Security Administration Fraud Line, (800) 269-0271, and the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Hotline, (877) IDTHEFT (438-4338). FTC address is: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

swipe your card for an actual purchase, or attach a device to an ATM where you may enter or swipe your card.

Another popular method for gaining your personal information is through e-mail or phone by posing as legitimate companies and claiming you have a problem with your account. This practice is known as "phishing" online, or pretexting by phone.

The following guidance offers tips on what to do to prevent identity theft.

-- Order you checks with your first initial (instead of your full name) and last name printed on them. A random person trying to use your checks won't know whether you sign your name or first initial last name.

-- Use work number and address instead of your home information on checks.

-- Never have your social security number printed on your checks.

-- Photocopy all of the contents of your wallet. It will be easier to account for items in your wallet should it be taken, as well as facilitate the cancellation of credit cards.

-- Immediately call the police if your wallet or any of the contents are stolen.-- Contact all three of the national credit reporting agencies to place fraud alert on your name and social security number. It alerts companies that your information has been stolen. If someone tries to get a credit card using your name, you have to be contacted before new credit can be authorized.

A recent amendment to the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each of the major nationwide consumer reporting companies to provide a free copy of your credit reports, at your request, once every 12 months. Since September, free reports are accessible to all Americans, regardless of where they live.

To order a free annual report from one or all the national consumer reporting companies, call toll-free (877) 322-8228.



# Civil engineers ready to rebuild after an attack

By Senior Airman Paul Haley  
Wing Public Affairs

Airfields in the middle of a combat zone get bombed and mortared frequently. If anyone needs evidence of this, they need look no further than Bagram Air Base, Iraq, also known as “Mortaritaville.” When an enemy force damages an air base, reducing its capabilities, civil engineer Airmen go to work to set things right.

For the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, repairing damage after an attack is just one element that will be inspected in the upcoming operational readiness exercise.

These masters of masonry and heroes of the hammer fix damaged runways and roads, broken water and sewer lines, and ruined utilities straight away so everyone can get back to the business of war.

The squadron will join other members of the 446th Airlift Wing, as well as the 62nd Airlift Wing and the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, S.D., for the ORI in June. The inspection will test the unit’s ability to perform their duties in a combat situation.

“We’ll be doing the same as we’re doing here, but in chem gear,” said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pizzi, utilities systems support at the 446th CES.

The unit will be inspected on several different area of responsibility. They will be hardening the base at the inspection site, using sandbags to help protect structures and areas people inhabit. They will also man entry control points onto and out of the compound, Sergeant Pizzi said.

The unit Reservists also are responsible for finding unexploded ordnance after an attack, and for decontaminating buildings in the event of a chemical attack.

One of the most consuming portions of getting ready to leave for the ORI has been preparing the unit’s pallets of work equipment, said Tech. Sgt. Teresa Faulconer, heating, ventilating and air conditioning

supervisor for the 446th CES.

The pallets contain all equipment necessary for the CES Airmen to do their work and are organized in accordance with strict standards for airlift, ensuring all vital equipment is properly contained, and the load is balanced for the aircraft, she explained.

There are several different packages that may be brought to a deployed area, depending on what the mission of the CES is to be. The squadron is capable of doing anything necessary for the upkeep of a normal city, maintaining structures, roads and runways, utilities like power and water, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning requirements, Sgt. Faulconer said.

The only way all this can be accomplished is with the combined expertise of the members.

“We have a lot of experience and knowledge here,” she said. Many people in the squadron also have civilian jobs in different trades from their Reserve specialties, allowing them to fill more than one role, she added.

About 56 of Reservists from CES will be participating in the ORI, bringing with them 7.0 tons of equipment.



Photo by Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
Tech. Sgt. Mel Lolmaugh, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron supply shop, secures a pallet during a practice session. The pallet build session is one of many Airmen in CES participated in to prepare for deployment for the Operational Readiness Inspection in June.

**ORI 'TRIVIA'**

**Q:** What are the two categories of defensive fighting positions and what are their functions?

**A:** Hasty- temporary partial cover. Provides ample frontal coverage. Should be around 18 inches deep. Fighting – Enough frontal coverage to engage the enemy without exposing self. Includes grenade sumps, 18 inches of dirt for overhead cover. (Page 50 of the *Airman's Manual*)

# Reservist completes journey from islander to United States citizen

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
Wing Public Affairs

There are few people in this world who have the ability to completely blow your mind. Airman 1st Class Nicole Cyrus, from the 446th Airlift Wing, may definitely be one of them.

She holds a law degree, helped transform a country's human rights program and pioneered a legal profession. Aside from that, she's a devoted mother and wife. Keep in mind there are only two stripes on her sleeve.

The vast discrepancy between rank and experience exists because Airman Cyrus enlisted in the Air Force Reserve as a non-U.S. citizen. Owing to that, her previous education could not parlay into a commission or advanced rank when she signed the dotted line.

However, green-card status will no longer be an impediment for her. The gifted and ambitious Airman gained U.S. citizenship March 20.

In 2001, Airman Cyrus immigrated to the United States from the land of calypso, the feisty Caribbean Island republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She walked away from the sublime life of an islander because she felt a need to grow and wanted to be closer to her

family in Western Washington, she said.

"I hit a point where it was time to leave," Airman Cyrus said. "It was a huge cultural shock when I first moved here, even though I spoke English. It's much faster paced than back home. The environment, the psyche of the people – it's all so different."

The road to gain citizenship was difficult, but Airman Cyrus said she is relieved it only took five years.

"During my swearing-in ceremony, there were so many old people there who had to get help from their family members just to stand up. I can't imagine how long they were trying to become citizens," she said.

She credits the military with easing the process. "It was expedited because I was in the military. It definitely went a lot quicker," she said.

About 35,000 non-citizens are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, while 12,000 serve in the Reserve component. In 2004 more than 7,500 people gained citizenship through the military. Airman Cyrus' native land, Trinidad and Tobago, has the ninth highest percentage of non-citizens serving in the U.S. military.

Since joining the Air Force Reserve June 30, 2005, Airman



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
**Airman 1st Class  
Nicole Cyrus**

Cyrus has become a prized acquisition for the 728th Airlift Squadron where she works as a personnel assistant.

"She is eager to learn and very intelligent," said Airman Cyrus' supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Aundrea Gonzales. "Nicole is someone with integrity and someone you can rely on. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to get to know and work with her."

The military seems to be a good fit for Airman Cyrus, as well. "I think it's awesome to work for the government. It's a real juggling of responsibilities. You have to put a lot of your personal feelings to the side – it's an exercise in selflessness that you don't see in the private industry," she said.

Airman Cyrus has a history of civil service, dating back to when she lived in Trinidad. She worked as a legal assistant for a blind attorney from 1994 to 2000, where she was a pioneer in her field.

After graduating from the University of London with a law degree in 1999, Airman Cyrus began working with Trinidad's attorney general's

office. She and her coworkers had the mammoth task of compiling human rights reports, which up to that point, had never been accomplished in the republic.

"It was very rewarding. You got to meet so many people from the government. When you meet another civil servant, you respect their work because you know how much of themselves they poured into it," she said.

The extensive human rights reports, which were often more than 200 pages long, helped government leaders deal with human rights issues more effectively, Airman Cyrus said.

Her passion and commitment has spilled over into the work she does with the 728th AS, even though she walked onto the job with little knowledge of what it would entail.

"Personnel ... I never knew what that was!" she said, flashing her jovial Caribbean island smile. "People think, 'human resources, oh that's just pushing paper.' But I don't think like that at all. For instance, it's my job to file records of emergency data. If a pilot is halfway around the world, then it's critical that his family can find him if there's an emergency. We're the link between a member and (his or her) family."

Aside from being committed to the Reserve and her family, Airman Cyrus is busy working on her second degree by taking classes offered on base by the University of Maryland. She is currently looking into the possibility of receiving a commission, and would one day like to work in the legal field again.

## At A Glance

About 35,000 non-citizens are currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, while 12,000 serve in the Reserve component.

# Maintenance full-time job for Reservists

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
Wing Public Affairs

**T**raditional Reservists generally work one weekend a month. However, for more than 20 Airmen in the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, there is nothing traditional about their work schedule.

Most have volunteered to serve full-time for the last two years.

“Our AMXS people repair, launch and do basically whatever it takes to get these planes to the theater to support C-17 operations,” said Lt. Col. Jerry Thayer, 446th AMXS commander. “We’ve had a definite impact on the mission and really stepped up to the plate to do a great job.”

Reasons vary from Reservist to Reservist on why they volunteered to work on a full-time basis.

“I volunteered to serve on all the orders I’ve been put on and have not been disappointed,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Means. “I enjoy spending a lot of time overseas and being deployed. I have always wanted to see the world and it’s even better to have the military pay me for it.”

Master Sgt. Mark Hewitt had separated from active duty in 1987 when his enlistment was up. A few years later, when he tried unsuccessfully to return to active duty, he decided on the Air Force Reserve. He joined the Reserve and was activated in January 2002. When he was deactivated, he volunteered to keep working.

“I was activated shortly after 9/11,” said Sergeant Hewitt. “I wanted to serve my country and be a part of the bigger picture.”

Tech. Sgt. Mark Reinke started out in the Army National Guard as a wheeled vehicle and generator mechanic. He found his love for aviation in November 1984 when he toured a C-141 and a C-130. He joined the Reserve and the aerospace repair shop.

“I just liked being in the Reserve and going active never entered my mind,” said Sergeant Reinke. “I had the best of both worlds; working on airplanes, doing man-days, working with the active duty and still being a civilian. As a kid, my father moved around a lot and I didn’t like it. So why put my sons through something I didn’t like?”

Sergeant Reinke was activated February 2002 to 2003, worked man-days, was activated again, then became an air reserve technician in April 2004.

“Every time something comes up, I volunteer to go,” said Sergeant Reinke. “I probably won’t quit until they tell me I can’t go anymore. I enjoy what I do and each time you go out to a TDY or deployment, you are learning something new. Besides, maintenance is in the blood and there is no better home than the flight line. How else could I get the chance to serve, work the jets, and get to travel?”

Even though they enjoy the work, each Reservist had to leave something behind



Photo by Kevin Tosh

**Staff Sgt. Steven Means, an aircraft maintenance craftsman with the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, looks through compartments in the back of a C-17 Globemaster.**

See **FULL TIME**, Page 9

# Programs key to funding education

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
Wing Public Affairs

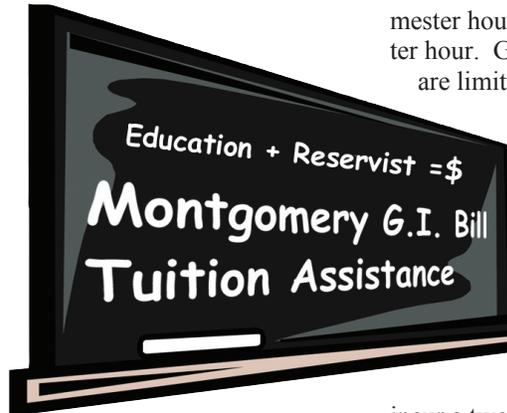
The Air Force is the most technologically advanced and capable air force in the world, in part due to the professional and personal education Airmen obtain, said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne.

"I don't want to stretch our personnel to exhaustion, but we want to foster our Airmen to quest after personal and professional education in any ways or means they can," Secretary Wynne said.

For McChord Reservists, the education office in the 446th Mission Support Squadron is ready to help them achieve their education goals.

The Air Force offers two different ways for Reservists to fund their educations. The first way is with tuition assistance.

"More than 70 Reservists are currently using or have used the tuition assistance reimbursement education



program this fiscal year," said Linda Bradley, 446th MSS.

Tuition assistance can be used for classes required to complete a college degree at a level the member does not already hold. In addition, regardless of degrees held, it can be used for pursuit of teacher certification or to complete a Community College of the Air Force associate degree.

The program pays up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. Undergraduate degrees and teacher certification are reimbursed at 100 percent up to \$250 per se-

mester hour or \$166 per quarter hour. Graduate degrees are limited to 75 percent or up to \$187.50 per semester hour or \$125 per quarter hour. Enlisted members must have enough time on their current enlistment to complete the class and officers incur a two year Reserve service commitment from the date of class completion.

"Because this education program is contingent upon funds being available at Headquarters AFRC, applications must be submitted to wing training at least seven days prior to class start date," said Ms. Bradley.

"When application is approved, money is set aside to for reimbursement upon confirmation of successful completion of the class," she said.

The second way Reservists can receive an education is

with the Montgomery G.I. Bill Selected Reserve program.

Unlike the Air Force Reserve Command Tuition Assistance program, the Montgomery GI Bill benefit is not limited to pursuit of a higher level degree, teacher certification or CCAF degree completion.

Veterans Administration education benefits can be used for a wide variety of training, including subsequent bachelors degrees, VA-approved job apprenticeships, correspondence courses, certificate programs, flight training, and more.

The 446th MSS Education Office is here to help.

"Contacting the wing training office should be a first step, to determine and verify what benefits member is eligible for."

Members can contact the education office at 982-2300. (*Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle, Air Force Print News, contributed to this article*)

## Full time

Continued from Page 8

in their civilian lives.

"I went into the Reserve straight out of high school, and when Operation Enduring Freedom kicked off I volunteered and served two years of mobilization orders," said Sergeant Means, who was activated during his second year of college and just recently returned to school. "Then I served another year of MPA orders (man days)."

Sergeant Hewitt left more than one thing behind.

"In 2002, I was set to take over my family's restaurant, but then I sold it when I became activated," said Sergeant Hewitt. "At the time, I had mixed feelings about it, but I'm glad I went this route."

Another unique aspect of Sergeant Hewitt's service is that he commutes from Oregon. During the week, he stays in bil-

leting, but travels home on the weekends to see his wife and three children who are 5, 3 and 2 years old.

"When my kids were younger, I would put them to bed and then leave. Now that they are older, I can tell them that I have to go fix a plane and they understand that. My wife is also very supportive," said Sergeant Hewitt. "She understands why I'm doing this."

Sergeant Reinke has also had to leave family behind.

"I came home after being gone for nine months and turned around to leave again for another deployment on my wife's birthday," said Sergeant Reinke. "Luckily, my wife is very supportive and she says I can keep going until I get tired of it."

While each Reservist loves what he or she is doing, each is also looking toward the future.

"I have a couple options on my plate,

but the idea I am currently leaning toward is working through the summer and then taking a few classes to finish off my degree," said Sergeant Means.

Sergeant Hewitt plans to keep working at McChord for another year and then revert back to being a traditional Reservist.

"My wife and I talked it over and we decided I could do one more year," said Sergeant Hewitt. "Her birthday is in May and that's when I'll go back to being a traditional Reservist."

Sergeant Reinke also has hopes for the future.

"I have one child who is considering joining the military," said Sergeant Reinke, who has a long lineage of military family members dating back to the civil war. "I kind of hope he joins. It would be continuing the family tradition."

Speaking of traditions, you can forget about calling these Reservists "traditional," at least for another year.

# S a f e t y



## Remember When

From May 2 to 3, 1923, Lt. Oakley G. Kelly and Lt. John A. Macready complete the first non-stop transcontinental flight. The trip from New York to San Diego took 26 hours, 50 minutes, three seconds in a Fokker T-2.

## Promotions

### Master Sergeant

Joel Bahr, 446th AMXS  
 Steven Beaty, 446th AMXS  
 Leonard Collins, 446th CES  
 Billy Cox, 446th AMXS  
 Devin Eierman, 446th AMXS  
 Christina Lewis, 446th AMDS  
 Terrill Skaw, 446th AMXS  
 Scott Snyder, 446th AMXS  
 Robert Williams, 446th AMXS

### Technical Sergeant

Joyce Allen, 86th APS  
 Keith Conzachi, 446th AMXS  
 Jeffrey Dupuy, 446th AMXS  
 Raymond Green, 446th AMXS  
 Jeremiah Harris, 446th LRF  
 Carl Hellyer, 446th AMXS  
 Jason Holden, 446th AMXS  
 Clyde Howe, 446th AMXS  
 Nathan Mann, 446th AMXS  
 Steven Marcil, 446th AMXS  
 Quay Redden, 446th AMXS  
 Richard Reed, 446th MSS  
 Corrine Rekrut, 446th AMXS  
 Damion Slaughter, 446th AMXS  
 Robert Verzola, 446th AMXS  
 Curtis Watson, 446th ASTS

### Staff Sergeant

Stephanie Apgar, 446th AMDS  
 Annette Brush, 446th CES  
 Dean Burke, 446th MSS  
 Adolfo Cervantes, 86th APS  
 Dorine Coleman, 446th ASTS  
 Kirk Engnes, 446th AMXS  
 Jessie Escalera, 86th APS  
 Dennis Eveland, 446th CES  
 Carlos Feliciano, 446th AMDS  
 Gary Graf, 446th AMXS  
 Alicia, Kusel, 446th MOF  
 Aime Medici, 446th AES  
 Casey Muilenburg, 446th ASTS  
 Karl Olsen, 446th AMXS  
 Nick Przybyciel, 446th AW  
 Lisa Marie VanMeerten, 446th ASTS

### Senior Airman

Roman Abundizgonzales, 446th AMXS  
 Patrick Allen, 446th AMXS  
 Clifford Bartlett, 446th AMXS  
 David Bauld, 446th AMXS  
 Channel Boltonschool, 446th MXS  
 Thomas Brennan, 446th MXS  
 Colleen Burack, 446th AMXS  
 Michael Erolin, 86th APS  
 Glen Guss, 446th AMXS  
 Dustin Hoyne, 446th AMXS  
 Shawn Lundgren, 446th CES  
 Erin Marquez, 446th MSS  
 Erik Merrill, 446th ASTS  
 Lawrence Messmer, 446th AMXS  
 Zina Reyes, 86th APS  
 Brandon Sciarretta, 446th CES  
 Jessie Suzuki, 446th MXS  
 Benjamin Tost, 446th MXS  
 Johnathon Valentine, 446th AMXS  
 Gabriel Velezmoya, 313th AS  
 Colby Walter, 446th CES

### Airman First Class

Jade Lazaro, 446th AMXS  
 Holly Moen, 446th CES  
 Alisa Olson, 446th AES  
 Demetrius Segobia, 446th CES  
 Michael Wenzel, 446th CES

## Newcomers

### Major

Betsye Manser, 446th ASTS

### Captain

Jason Allen, 97th AS

### First Lieutenant

Michael Komorous, 97th AS  
 Kenneth Strunk, 313th AS

### Technical Sergeant

Timothy Goodrich, 86th APS  
 Jon Schmink, 446th AW

### Staff Sergeant

Cornelius Coote, 446th MXS  
 Christopher Daitoku, 446th MXS

Long Diep, 86th APS

John Hannah, 446th AMXS  
 Gary Lancasater, 446th AMXS  
 Kennth MacArthur, 446th OSF  
 Caleb Sheldon, 446th AMXS  
 Anthony West, 446th AMXS

### Senior Airman

Mike Cacho, 446th OSF  
 Eric Carsten, 86th APS  
 Roger Crook, 36th APS  
 James Freeman, 446th AMDS  
 Daniel Hogan, 446th AMXS  
 Daniel Hoskins, 446th AMXS  
 Jessica Jenner, 446th SFS  
 Gary Kaiser, 446th AMXS  
 John Kernan, 36th APS  
 Lanisha Metz, 36th APS  
 Nicole Reed, 446th ASTS  
 Thomas Rossi, 446th AMXS  
 Stephen Toth, 446th AMDS  
 Aimee Woods, 86th APS

### Airman First Class

Dustin Ballard, 446th MXS  
 Steven Bills, 36th APS  
 Eli Cabelly, 446th MXS  
 Tristan Davis, 446th AMXS  
 Adam Farnsworth, 36th APS  
 Richard Fitzpatrick, 446th AMXS  
 Caleb Glemaker, 86th APS  
 Cameron Hatton, 86th APS  
 Travis Marion, 446th MXS  
 Robert Pollock, 446th MXS

## Retirements

### Senior Master Sergeant

Dina Loudon, 446th AMXS

### Master Sergeant

Robert Collinge, 446th AMXS  
 Stephen Dell, 446th AMXS  
 Bernard Erni, 36th APS  
 John Fecteau, 446th AMXS  
 Karl Hvasta, 446th CES

### Technical Sergeant

Randall Pratt, 446th MSS



Ten captains in the 446th Airlift Wing can look forward to trading in their double bars for a gold leaf.

Selected for promotion to major are:

Ester Aubert, 446th AES  
 Kristina Forbes, 446th AES  
 Peter Gbelia, 313th AS

Marie Hudson, 446th ASTS  
 Heather Julian, 446th AES  
 Jonathan Karnes, 728th AS  
 Stephen Oliver, 446th MXS  
 Don Palencia, 446th AMDS  
 Arthur Rodi, 446th LRF  
 James Sardo, 446th ASTS

# Just Briefly

## What does Memorial Day mean to you?

Remember

It's a time to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. It's a day to memorialize them.



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Lisa Kelly*  
446th Mission Support Squadron

Celebrate

It's a celebration of life for those who have passed on, a special day of recognition for those who have served.



◆ *Airman First Class Zina Reyes*  
86th Aerial Port Squadron

Recognize

Time of reflection to recognize the sacrifices of all who provided the country we have today.



◆ *Senior Master Sgt. Dean Hardman*  
446th Civil Engineer Squadron

Sacrifice

It's an opportunity to take time to recognize those people who sacrificed for the freedoms of this country.



◆ *Senior Airman Carlos Seoanes-Perla*  
446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

## Wing Commander's Calls set for May and June UTAs

The Wing Commander's Call for the B UTA is May 21. The Wing Commander's Call for the A UTA is scheduled for June 4.

## AFA announces full four-year online degree scholarship

The mission of Air Force Association includes promoting aerospace education, specifically the study of science, math and technology. Through AFA's affiliation with Grantham University, a full scholarship is available for AFA members or their family members.

One full four-year scholarship to Grantham University, which has a total value of approximately \$28,000, will be awarded in July.

Applications will be accepted through June 15. For more information on distance education and this full scholarship, go on the Internet to [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org) and click on awards, scholarships and grants.

## BAH1 gets green light; may require patience to process

Reservists on active-duty orders for more than 30 days may now be paid basic housing allowance one (BAH1). The old regulations stated a member had to be on active-duty orders for more than 140 days in order to receive BAH 1.

This decision is retroactive to Jan. 6.

For those Reservists who qualify, there will be a debt on their pay statement to collect back the BAH 2 already paid. As soon as the collection action takes place finance officials will input the new BAH 1 pay.

"It will take quite some time to sort out who qualifies and then to get all caught up, but we wanted to make sure everyone knew about the decision as soon as possible," said Bill Britt, 446th Airlift Wing military pay supervisor.

## We mean it this time; support group, squadron move to Bldg. 1205

The 446th Mission Support Group and Mission Support Squadron offices currently housed in Bldg. 708 will move back to Bldg. 1205 the week of May 15.

Offices within Bldg. 708 will be closed during the move, with no business being conducted May 15-19.

Personnel records will be packed up May 11-12. There will be no access to them.

## 2007 UTA schedule approved, ready for release to employers

The 2007 UTA schedule has been approved. Reservists are encouraged to share this schedule with their civilian

employers as soon as possible. Remember, if you have any questions about your rights and responsibilities to your employer, contact 446th Airlift Wing public affairs 982-2060 or e-mail [anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil](mailto:anna.sullivan@mcchord.af.mil).

	A	B
October	14-15	21-22
November	4-5	18-19
December	2-3	9-10
January	6-7	20-21
February	3-4	10-11
March	3-4	17-18
April	31 Mar-1 Apr	21-22
May	5-6	19-20
June	2-3	16-17
July	7-8	14-15
August	4-5	18-19
	<i>All Ops on B August UTA</i>	
September	8-9	22-23

## Senior NCO Academy course either web-based or CD-ROM

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy Courses 12 and 14, have exactly the same content. Course 12 is the current CD-ROM-based course, while 14 is the new web-based course. If students want to take the web-based version, they must be enrolled in Course 14.

Once students select a course, they must finish in that course, or cancel their enrollment, wait the penalty period of six months, and then re-enroll in the other course. If you have questions, call Bobby Frazier, 446th Mission Support Squadron test control office at 982-3354.

## Wing military pay office closes on Wednesday afternoon for training

Wednesday of each week, the 446th Airlift Wing military pay office is closed from noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Britt, 446th AW military pay supervisor at 982-9117.

## Washington state Special Olympics needs volunteers

The Special Olympics Washington will be June 2-3 and is seeking volunteers to help make this a successful event.

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Volunteers are need from June 1-4

About 350 volunteers are needed. To sign up as a volunteer, go to the McChord SharePoint page at <https://62aw.mcchord.af.mil/default.aspx> and look for the Special Olympics tab on the right.

If you have any questions please contact the 446th Airlift Wing volunteer coordinators: Tech. Sgt. Kelly Schweitzer at 982-1292, or Master Sgt. Mark Cherrix, at 982-6619.

# Civilian employers 'deploy' for a day

By 1st Lt. Larry Kohlman  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – The smell of jet fuel filled the air as employers of 446th Airlift Wing Reservists walked up the ramp of the C-17 aircraft April 1, during Employer Orientation Day.

Throughout the day employers were shown many aspects of wing's mission and how their employees contribute to it.

"This event has helped me with my understanding of the aircraft and the necessity of the mission and what his contribution is to the Reserve," said David Wejrawski, United Parcel Service supervisor of Staff Sgt. Alan Jackson, a 446th AW chaplain assistant.

Employers began the day processing through a mock mobility line, followed by briefings to prepare them for their deployment. Employers were briefed as though they were deploying to a highly-classified area of operations (Moses Lake). They were fully briefed on the weapons, body armor, and chemical protective equipment they would be "issued."

The briefings, though informative, also allowed employers the opportunity to see the professionalism of the Reservists. Some employers discovered the hidden talents of their employees.

"This is a whole different side of her that I didn't know; this has shown me how good she is at public speaking," said Cheryl Remington, employer of Senior Airman Stacy Elwess, 446th AW Civil Engineer Squadron. Airman Elwess briefed the group of 37 employers on the chemical defense requirements and protec-

tive equipment requirements for deploying Reservists.

The deployment continued with a flight to the deployment location where the employers witnessed a heavy platform airdrop.

"I'm having a blast. I'm getting to do what only a handful of people on the face of the earth get to do," said Peter Hamilton, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., employer of Capt. Michael Attebury, 728th Airlift Squadron.

"This gives me a deeper understanding of what he is doing when he is not in the office," said Mr. Hamilton. Supporting his Reserve duty is a small price to pay for freedom, he added.

For many years Reservists have either volunteered or have been called to active duty to support missions around the globe. Reserve employers deal with the strain of their employees' multiple deployments.

The last couple of years have been difficult with Sergeant Jackson's deployments, said Mr. Wejrawski.

Part of Sergeant Jackson's



Photo by 1st Lt. Larry Kohlman

**Master Sgt. Daniel VanZanten, 446th Security Forces Squadron, explains to Cheryl Remington how to hold a M-9 pistol. Ms. Remington is the civilian employer of Senior Airman Stacy Elwess, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron.**

UPS route is at McChord and it's difficult to train a driver not familiar with the base. "This program helps with the hardship of giving that employee up," Mr. Wejrawski said.

Even though Employer Orientation Day focuses on the employers, the event also is a great benefit for the Reservist. "My

working relationship has improved because my employer now has a better understanding of what I do and what my training requirements are," Airman Elwess said.

The next Employer Orientation Day is Oct. 21. Applications will be available in August from the Public Affairs Office.

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