



Maintainers work together during Rodeo 2005 to earn the best C-17 preflight award. Team work such as this is what has now earned the 446th Maintenance Group the 4th Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James K. Clouse award as best maintenance unit in the numbered Air Force.

## Raincross Trophy awarded to wing

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – The capabilities of the Airmen of the 446th Airlift Wing made the wing an integral player when the nation went to war. It also made the 446th AW the choice for the 4th Air Force Raincross Trophy.

The trophy, representing the best wing in the 4th Air Force, was presented July 26 at the 4th Air Force Commanders Conference at March ARB, Calif.

Awarded annually by the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce in Riverside, Calif., the trophy's criteria includes categories ranging from mission effectiveness to community relations.

“The 446th Airlift Wing winning the Raincross Trophy as best wing in 4th Air Force is once more indicative of the superior work superb individuals are doing in their roles as citizen Airmen to defend America,” said Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th AW commander.

In addition to the Raincross Trophy, the wing was awarded the Chief Master Sgt. James K. Clouse Trophy recognizing excellence among maintenance organizations within 4th AF.

Thirteen units competed for the two awards, but the 446th AW received the distinction of earning both in the same year for its achievements.

## Maintenance best in 4th Air Force

By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – McChord's Reserve maintainers are turning more than wrenches, they are routinely turning over accolades and bringing home big trophies that spotlight their talent. Most recently, the 446th Maintenance Group earned high praise in July when it was named the Chief Master Sgt. James K. Clouse Trophy award winner at the 4th Air Force Commanders Conference at March ARB, Calif.

This trophy is presented to recognize excellence among maintenance organizations within 4th Air Force.

“Earning this award acknowledges the caliber of our maintenance group people,” said Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th Airlift Wing commander. “I am so pleased to see this level of recognition for our deserving citizen Airmen.”

The award didn't get handed over alone. The 446th AW was also presented with the Raincross Trophy, which is given to the best wing in 4th AF. This is the first time one wing took home both trophies in the same year.

The maintenance Airmen pooled together their talents to boast exceptional mission performance, spectacular in-

novation, and highly effective training. Among their specific accomplishments, the people of the 446th MXG performed the best C-17 pre-flight inspection at the 2005 Rodeo competition, contributing to the wing's award of Best C-17 Wing. They also reduced the time taken to change a C-17 engine by 40 percent, and supported Team McChord in flying 2,500 hours more than any other C-17 unit.

“This is a very prestigious award and to be recognized as the best in 4th Air Force is very impressive,” said Col. Jon Huguley, 446th MXG commander.

In addition to the immediately visible outstanding areas in the maintenance group, the wing safety inspection rated the group at 98 percent, a high mark for one of the most diverse, industrialized areas in the wing.

“Our folks have been working very hard,” Colonel Huguley said. “Even though this period has been highly labor intensive, we're still keeping up high manning and retention numbers, which speaks volumes about the culture of excellence we're constantly striving for.”

“I couldn't ask for a better group to lead,” he continued. “But we could not have won this by ourselves. It takes a team effort from the entire wing to make us successful.”

**The 446th Associate Press**  
Volume 28, No. 9  
September 2006

Sept. 22 is the deadline for articles in the October 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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# Senior leaders agree on three priorities for force

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree  
Wing commander

I have been to several high-level conferences in the last month at which the strategic picture for the Air Force has been a topic for discussion. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, asked that we communicate a three part message to the troops with his priorities. These were agreed upon after many top level discussions between General Moseley, Mr. Michael Wynne, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the senior Air Force staff at the Pentagon.

The first is winning the Global War on Terrorism. While all of us know this has

been, and will continue to be, a long conflict that will not be resolved easily, we must still focus on eventual victory. To do otherwise would be against the whole premise with which we entered the conflict after Sept 11th, 2001. Many changes are being made in strategies and execution that are meant to lead us to an eventual victory. And I am sure many more changes will be made as we work to predict the enemy's next moves and counter them before they perpetrate their next terror event. The key is, the American public must never doubt our dedication to eventual victory.

The second priority is the care of our Air Force members

and their families. We have made great strides in the areas of pay and benefits, and family care, but we must continue to press for even greater levels of care in both areas as this long conflict places more stress on members and their loved ones. There is great consternation at all levels of the Air Force over the announced cuts of almost 50,000 people from our manning. About 7,700 of those cuts will be in the Air Force Reserve Command. While we at the 446th Airlift Wing will not see any massive cuts, we will be affected by the active duty cuts in some of the areas that support us as we go to offices on base for services.

The third priority is recapitalization, or the purchase of new equipment to replace aging systems that are past their useful life span. This is particularly focused on aircraft because they are so expensive to replace. We all know we have been trying to get new air-borne tankers to replace the older KC-135s. That process is a top priority for the

Air Force leadership in conjunction with Congress. The purchase of the F-22 and Joint Strike Fighter to replace aging F-15 and F-16 aircraft is also a high priority; not because those existing fighters are as physically old as the KC-135s, but because they are technologically part of a past generation. Warfare technology is



**Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree**

a rapidly advancing, moving target. To stay ahead of our enemies we must continue to press ahead continually, or we will find ourselves unable to penetrate and attack in a fashion necessary to support our ground troops.

As Secretary Wynne pointed out, there are three competing entities in any defense budget. Operations and maintenance costs, personnel costs and facilities/equipment costs. The dollars from our defense budget are finite, set by Congress. Therefore funding priorities is a juggling act to try to get the best of all possible situations with a budget that will never be big enough to get everything we need at once. By prioritizing and getting smarter about how we spend our money, we will be able to keep the Air Force the top notch service it is well into the future. That quality is because of you and the excellent job you do making the mission happen and defending the nation.

Thanks to you and your families and have a safe and happy autumn season.

“There is great consternation at all levels of the Air Force over the announced cuts of almost 50,000 people from our manning.”

— Eric Crabtree

# Life skills team helps warriors cope

By Sandra Pishner  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – If you're going to live your life well, particularly in a war zone, it might be wise to have some life skills.

Life Skills, known to old timers as mental health, is exactly what a three-member team of Reservists provided to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in Balad, Iraq earlier this year.

Maj. David Ubelhor, Capt. James Sardo, and Tech. Sgt. Edrid Tirado, all of the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, spent 120 days in Iraq between January and May delivering a wide variety of mental health resources to joint forces.

"This was the first and only Reserve unit to deploy as a complete MHRRT," said Major Ubelhor. "Although we're housed with the ASTS, we don't operate solely in the aeromedical world. Our UTC (unit task code) is part of the contingency medical ground support."

Known as the Mental Health Rapid Response Team, these three professionals bring with them the skills of a clinical psychologist (Sardo), a clinical social worker (Ubelhor), and a mental health technician

(Tirado).

"As a MHRRT, we provide what we now call life skills," explained Major Ubelhor. "The term 'life skills' reflects the more preventive focus of the Air Force, rather than simply waiting for problems to occur and then trying to remedy them."

Although assigned as part of the ASTS, the MHRRT is often activated and deployed with an expeditionary medical support squadron, as they were in Balad.

The team delivered mental health services on an outpatient basis out of an expeditionary medical squadron or EMEDS.

"We also went to the Air Force theatre hospital and helped with the wounded Soldiers there. Some of them were going back to their units, so we would give them mental health services there in the hospital. Some of them would also need to enter the air evacuation system, so we would bridge the gap between their stay at the contingency staging facility and their follow-up care in Germany or at a stateside facility."

Not all the team's efforts are directed to totally resolving a person's current issue. Often times, they simply bridge the gap until future appointments can be arranged.

"I don't try to fix all these people if they're going back to their unit for duty. In

those cases, I set up referrals to other mental health professionals working closer to that person's unit. I would do emotional first aid in those cases."

Not only did the team provide services at the theater hospital, the CASF, and the EMEDS, they went wherever they needed to – such as in a pick-up truck.

"I jumped in the pick-up truck with one Soldier as he was going to pick up his gear on his way to catch the chopper back to his unit," said the major. "I did my therapy session in the truck and then referred the troop for a follow-up visit with a field psychologist assigned nearer to his unit. That's how it worked sometimes, we would get an hour or less with Soldiers and the only thing you can think of is how to help them reduce their emotional stress."

Combat stress, anxiety, inability to sleep, personal issues, relationship problems, and anger, are among the issues to which the team responded.

"Things can be a little different for medical personnel at Balad. I recall, for instance, that my first patient was an Army troop who presented with 'an anger issue'

See LIFE SKILLS, Page 5



Photo by Col. Peggy Phillips

## Big Brother

The Air Force Thunderbirds soar in their small F-16s over the large McChord C-17 during the Inland Northwest Skyfest airshow at Fairchild AFB, Wash., July 29-30. The C-17, flown by a 728th Airlift Squadron aircrew, performed a demonstration flight and was available as a static display for the more than 125,000 visitors.

# Retired Reservists may teach JROTC

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.** – Retirees from the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard can apply for instructor duty in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

AFJROTC officials anticipate Congress will approve and enact legislation to Title 10 by Oct. 1 permitting them to hire retired Air Guard and Reserve members as instructors. Currently, active-duty retirees are the only people serving as AFJROTC instructors.

Based on this anticipated approval, AFJROTC is accepting applications from Guard and Reserve members who retired

within the past five years or less, or who are within six months of a fixed retirement date.

A review of the AFJROTC public Web site at [www.afloats.af.mil](http://www.afloats.af.mil) Aug. 27 shows that Washington has 10 schools with Air Force Junior ROTC programs, five of which are within the Puget Sound area. At this time, however, none have instructor openings. Oregon, conversely, has only one school with AFJROTC. Reservists interested in traveling may also consider that there are 10 AFJROTC programs overseas.

People can access applications via the

AFJROTC public Web site by selecting “AFJROTC” and then “Instructor Application.”

AFJROTC officials said acceptance of applications depends on passage of the legislation and approval of applicants’ qualifications. They emphasize that submission of an application does not guarantee approval or selection for an AFJROTC instructor position.

More information is available by calling 1-866-235-7682, extensions 7742, 5112 or 2535. *(AFRC News Service from an AFJROTC news release)*

# Medical team transports newborn on C-17

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

— Air Force Print News

**SAN ANTONIO (AFPN)** – Seth and Stephanie Parker held each other’s hands and waited. As the C-17 touched down at 12:05 a.m. July 22 at Lackland AFB, Texas, they smiled at each other and looked at their son.

Four-day-old Stuart lay across from his parents on a medical cart surrounded by doctors, nurses and medical technicians. He was the newest patient for the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, or ECMO, team that was double- and triple-checking everything to ensure he was ready for the next leg of his journey.

Shortly after his birth, doctors told the Parkers that moving Stuart from the third floor of the Hospital Auxilio Mutuo in San Juan, Puerto Rico, could be fatal. But now here he was -- being loaded off a Reserve-flown McChord C-17 Globemaster onto an ambulance headed for Wilford Hall Medical Center.

“Once we landed, I knew everything was going to be alright,” Stephanie said.

Shortly after Stuart’s uneventful delivery, the Parkers learned that Stuart’s lungs



Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Reed

**Cpts. Karen Long and James Bailey monitor the vital signs and blood flow of 3-day-old Stuart Parker aboard a McChord C-17 Globemaster III on July 21. Captain Long is a neonatal intensive care nurse and Captain Bailey is a pediatric intensive care nurse assigned to the Wilford Hall Medical Center.**

were not working properly. The oxygen levels on his blood had “crashed” several times, dropping to dangerously low levels.

The doctor said the next step for Stuart would be ECMO.

The ECMO machine provides partial heart-lung bypass to infants and children suffering from severe cardiopulmonary failure. It is made to do the work of the heart and lungs -- to oxygenate the blood. This

procedure is accomplished by surgery on the baby’s throat that takes blood from the patient to a “lung” where it is filled with oxygen and then returned to the patient.

“ECMO is not a cure,” said Maj. Melissa Tyree, ECMO director and staff neonatologist at Wilford Hall. “It buys the patient time -- time to help a disease process that can be reversed.”

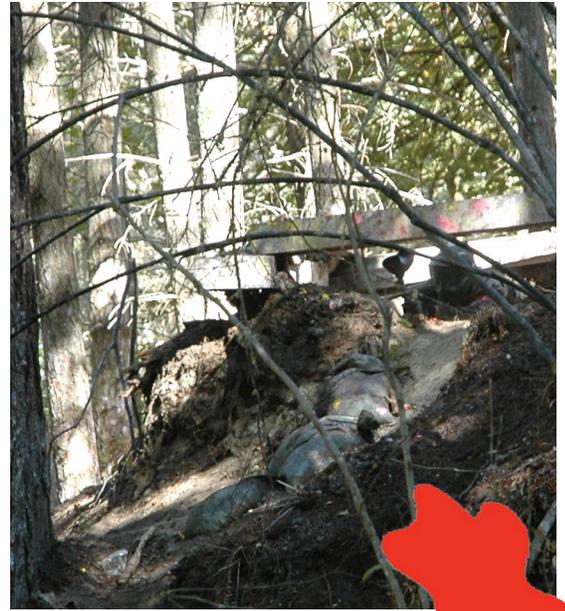
Since it was created in 1985, Wilford Hall’s ECMO team has treated 172 patients; 63 required transport on the ECMO. Wilford Hall officials say fewer than 20 percent of patients who need it would survive without ECMO treatment.

Since there are no ECMO machines in Puerto Rico, one of the doctor’s colleagues suggested the Wilford Hall Medical Center’s ECMO team. Among all ECMO teams around the globe, the Wilford Hall team is unique.

“We remain the only institution or team in the world with the capability to do ECMO -- transportable ECMO -- with the geographical distribution that we can do,” Major Tyree said. “In short, we are the only worldwide ECMO team.”

After arriving in Texas, Stuart was loaded into an ambulance headed for the Wilford Hall NICU, where his condition improved each day.

“He is truly a miracle son. Hopefully one day we’ll be able to make him proud to say that the military saved his life,” Lieutenant Parker said. “I owe it to the fellow men and women in the military -- they have truly made me proud to be a member of this joint force.”



# Splat!

Photos by Senior Airman Paul Haley  
**Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Sekora (left) and Staff Sgt. David Roberts (above), both from the 446th Security Forces Squadron, exchange fire during the squadron's pre-picnic paint ball game Aug. 27. Shortly after eliminating Sergeant Roberts, Sergeant Sekora was "killed" while charging the hill.**

## LIFE SKILLS

Continued from Page 3

and his loaded M-16 rifle," said Major Ubelhor.

"Lots of relationship problems; that's the number one issue and has been for a number of years," said Major Ubelhor. "So if you have problems before you go over, guess what, they don't get any better in a war zone. Bad situations actually get exacerbated."

Of the patients seen in Balad, about 98 percent were returned to duty by this Life Skills team.

A key player for working out personnel problems and getting Airmen back to work is the first sergeant.

"Commander support is key, but since most of our business comes from the enlisted ranks (because of the greater percentage of enlisted personnel), we work hard to maintain a tight relationship with the first sergeants," said Major Ubelhor. "I met with the Shirts almost immediately after we arrived in Balad and told them to let us know early and often what's going on with their people so we could prevent or reduce as many problems as possible."

The Life Skills team encouraged supervisors and first sergeants not to wait until a problem came up that would result in administrative action or, in a worsening situation that required them to send the Airman home. As the major told first sergeants,

the Life Skills team is designed to be a force multiplier.

"Fortunately, they heard what we had to say and we had some really good successes," say Major Ubelhor.

For the Life Skills team, the experience at Balad was sometimes maddening, it was frustrating, it was challenging, it was exhilarating, and it was, overall, wonderful.

"There's a whole range of emotions and the challenges always came, 24 hours a day. But that's the exciting part – to have had the confidence that we'd trained well, to then execute that training, and to know, through consistent feedback from the troops and commanders, that we did a good job," said the major.

## THE ROUTE ...



## THE RES



Photos provide by Master Sg  
**LEFT:** A souvenir photo sh  
**Master Sgt. Darran Baggs**  
**climb to the summit of M**  
**ABOVE:** Master Sgt. Darran  
**avid adventurer, as well as a**  
**mechanic with the 446th**  
**Squadron.**

# Climbing mountains, real or perceived, tests Reservists toughness, willpower

By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Beauchaine  
 Wing Public Affairs

**F**lying a flag above the clouds usually involves an American flag onboard an Air Force transport, like the C-17. On July 29, a 446th Maintenance Squadron Reservist traveled on foot to a summit above the clouds to fly his squadron's flag.

After 13 hours of grueling effort, Master Sgt. Darran Baggs, a fuel systems mechanic, conquered Mount Rainier's tallest peak, along with a team of other climbers and a distinguished guide, Dave Hahn.

"I was so happy I actually got to the top," he said. "It was very emotional, setting a big goal and getting there. I learned so much about my willpower and strength and I understand more about who I am."

Having climbed several mountains before, including two Ecuadorian peaks in 2004, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa in 2002, and a climb to the base camp of Mount Everest in 2000, Sergeant Baggs is now a self-proclaimed adventure addict.

"Mountain climbing gets in your blood," he said. "Once you've climbed one, you think about what the next big goal can be."

Preparation for his ascent of Mount Rainier began eight months before the actual climb. After changing his diet and starting a vigorous exercise routine, he lost 40 pounds and gained the strength to tackle 14,410 feet of dormant fire and ice.

"I did a lot of hiking, running and used a stair stepper machine while wearing a 40-pound backpack," said Sergeant Baggs. "My longest training hike was 25 miles

with an elevation gain of 4,500 feet."

The journey to the summit's nearly three vertical miles of climbing included conquering 26.2 horizontal miles when he ran the Ogden, Utah marathon, a physically as well as mentally demanding event.

"The mental aspects of training are as important, if not more important, than the physical prep," said Sergeant Baggs. "As we approached the top (of Mount Rainier), I started to get tired, but I kept thinking about the flag I was carrying. I knew I had to get the flag to the top of the mountain for the 446th. I kept thinking about the people I work with and how much effort it took to get this beautiful flag made. There was no way I was going to turn around before getting that flag up there."

That kind of determination is essential when you consider that Mount Rainier

## SERVIST ...

## THE REWARD.



Master Sgt. Darram Baggs shows the route he took on his Mount Rainier. Baggs is an expert in fuels systems maintenance.

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Triumphing over the elements and oxygen deprivation, Master Sgt. Darram Baggs, right, carried a 446th Maintenance Squadron flag more than 14,000 feet to display on top of Mount Rainier with his tour guide, Dave Hahn, left.

climbers have only a 50 percent success rate. On this day, seven members of the team did not make it to the summit.

"There are crevasses, falling ice and rocks, and up to 100-foot ice walls, so you have to move constantly and climb at night," said Sergeant Baggs. "As the sun starts warming everything up, ice falls and rocks pop out of the glacier, which can kill people who are below the wall."

Once at the top, the dangers didn't subside. The 45 mile per hour wind makes it difficult to hold the flag still. Temperatures between 10 and 20 degrees, with the wind chill, made it worse. Sergeant Baggs used every piece of clothing he brought - long johns, polypropylene insulation, a down coat - but he was still cold.

"Mountains are tough; they'll teach you how much toughness and willpower

you have," he said. "You have to build up endurance, but you also have to wrap your brain around the belief you can do it."

Another nine hours later, Sergeant Baggs completed the most dangerous part of the journey, his descent.

"That's when most people get injured," he said. "I kept thinking about the letter I carried from my nine-year-old daughter. She wrote me a note and reminded me to come home safe for my 48th birthday the next day."

Famous climber George Mallory died while descending Mount Everest. Hahn, Sergeant Baggs' tour guide on the Mount Rainier climb, was on the team that located Mallory's remains.

"Mount Rainier isn't Everest," said Sergeant Baggs, "but it's still a tough climb. It requires ice axes and crampons,

and many people have died while climbing it."

But the Reservist prevailed and the 446th MXS flag waved freely above the clouds.

"I recently began my Reserve time (at McChord) and we have a great view of the mountain," said Sergeant Baggs. "I'm reminded each drill weekend when I see (the mountain), of all the hard work and preparation it takes to achieve goals - whether it's climbing mountains or combating the global war on terrorism.

"Most of all," he added, "it reminds me that challenges are opportunities to break a big obstacle into smaller, attainable goals and in the end, the accomplishment is the sweetest reward." (*Senior Airman Paul Haley, 446th AW Public Affairs, contributed to this story*)

# Uniform AFI with updates in print now

WASHINGTON (AFP) – An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, was released Aug. 2.

A key feature of this updated instruction is the return of heritage to the enlisted corps -- chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

“Over the years, we’ve made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. “Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them.”

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

“Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done,” she said. “Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918.”

The change includes the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates are reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

More clarification is provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing is incorporated in the updated document.

The Air Force Uniform Board, chaired by Air Force A1, reviews any matters related to Air Force uniforms involving possible improvements, and in turn, provides recommendations to the chief of staff.

Immediately effective approved items from the 97th Air Force Uniform Board

## Air Force Uniform Board Results

- A** Design and development of the Headquarters, U.S. Air Force identification (HAF) badge
- B** Wear of the blue nametag with the Air Force Informal uniform - **abbreviated rank** and name on one line
- C** Standardized **cummerbund** wear
- D** Prohibit wear of **scrunchy** as hair accessory for women
- E** **Hair pins** and bands will match hair color and long hair will be secured with no loose ends
- F** **Hair color/highlights/frosting** will not be faddish and will be natural looking for human beings
- G** No **flat top** hairstyle or shaved head for women
- H** **Synthetic hair** can be worn as long as it meets safety and mission requirements
- I** **Braids**, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized for women
- J** Standardize **wig/hairpiece** wear - eliminates medical justification for men
- K** If due to a temporary medical condition resulting in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved **American Cancer Society cap** (black or tan), wigs or baldness in uniform
- L** Females will not wear shades of **nail polish** that distinctly contrast with their complexion, that detract from the uniform, or that are extreme. Nail polish will be limited to one color. French manicures are allowed. Nail length will not exceed one quarter inch from finger tip
- M** Wear of **carry type purse** with no more than two straps authorized with mess dress
- N** Reduce bracelet size to one half inch. **Bracelets** that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized
- O** **Rings** will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring
- P** **Eyeglasses** will not be worn around the neck; on top or back of head; or exposed/hanging on uniform
- Q** **Earrings** for women will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl, or silver with any uniform combination and worn as a set. If member has multiple holes only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe
- R** Optional wear of male **flight cap** for women
- S** Authorize optional **epoxy blue name tag**, worn on the blue shirt
- T** Authorize the wear of the **fire fighter duty badge** while an individual is assigned to 3E7X1 DAFSC position, including periods of PME attendance and staff tours above the group level
- U** Authorize the wear of the **security forces duty badge** and beret while an individual is assigned to a 3PXXX DAFSC position and possesses a 3PXXX PAFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above the group level
- V** Discontinue award of the Air Force **Good Conduct Medal**. May continue to wear those previously earned and a matter of record
- W** **PT uniform**-mandatory wear date set as 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2005 in the AOR. Specific wear instructions released on message dated 17 November 2005
- X** **Cell phones**, pagers and personal digital assistant must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray and must be conservative. May be clipped to the left side of waist band or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using cell phones, radios, hands-free headsets unless required in the performance of official duties using a government issued device
- Y** Authorize the permanent wear of the **scuba badge** on the BDU

For updates and more information on the results from the 97th Air Force Uniform Board please go to [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)

Air Force News Agency

# New program makes up for some lost civilian income

DENVER – Starting Sept. 1, Reservists will begin receiving Reserve Income Replacement Program pay.

Congress ordered the Department of Defense to develop the RIRP to aid members of the National Guard and Reserve who get less pay because they are involuntarily put on active duty.

The program helps people who on average receive at least \$50 less a month than their civilian pay.

The difference in pay is the average monthly civilian income before a person is mobilized and the person's total monthly military compensation after mobilization.

To get the money, Reservists must be serving involuntarily on active duty. Also, they must have served 18 consecutive months on active duty, completed 24 months of active duty during the previous

60 months, or been involuntarily mobilized for 180 days or more within six months of the previous involuntary period of active duty of more than 180 days.

The first payment starts in September for duty performed in August, the first full month following the 180-day period after enactment of Public Law 109-163, National Defense Authorization Act for 2006.

Reservists will receive the pay for every full month of involuntary active-duty service they perform from August 2006 through December 2008. Payments are capped at \$3,000 per month.

People can learn more about the program and get help verifying eligibility by calling the Air Reserve Personnel Center's Reserve Personnel Contact Center at 800.525.0102. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from an ARPC news release)

# Retire from Reserve through Web

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims  
ARPC Public Affairs

**DENVER (AFPN)** – As of July 31, all eligible members of the Air Force Reserve must submit retirement applications electronically via the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

“The ultimate goal is to improve and streamline how we deliver services to our Reservists,” said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. “We’re leveraging technology and Web application to help strike the

balance necessary to continue to deliver service with fewer personnelists.”

Previously, Reservists had to visit their local military personnel flight, complete the required retirement application package, submit it to their supervisor or commander, and send it to ARPC.

This new Web-enabled service is available at any time from anywhere in the world and will give Airmen the ability to monitor the status of their application from start to finish. Reservists can log on to the vPC-GR at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp> to begin the process.

When the submission is received, the customer is e-mailed a tracking number. After the member’s commander -- or program manager for individual mobilization augmentees -- has electronically endorsed the application, the Reserve Personnel Contact Center at the ARPC will verify eligibility and finalize the application.

Once approved, the vPC-GR will send e-mail notifications to the member and his or her commander or manager. This new process only applies to members who have not yet initiated a retirement application.

The technical wizards and personnel specialists of the

service delivery transformation team at ARPC continuously study which processes handled by local MPFs can be centralized and automated at ARPC.

In the future, centralized services should account for nearly every aspect of every Reservists’ personnel actions, from initial enlistment to far beyond retirement and everything in between.

ARPC and the Air Force Personnel Center are working simultaneously on centralizing and automating many of its processes for all Airmen and civilians in the Total Force.

# High winds overcome weighty C-17



Photo by

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio** – This C-17 Globemaster was no match for the high winds that swept through Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio Aug. 3. The C-17, weighing in at 277,000 pounds when empty, was pushed off the parking apron and onto a nearby field. A C-5, weighing 373,214 pounds empty, was also moved off its parking spot by the storm. Winds that reached 73 mph caused about \$75,000 in damage to the installation near Dayton. The C-17 was being flown by a 446th Airlift Wing crew, however the Reservists were in crew rest at the time of the incident.

## WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio

– A severe thunderstorm blew through Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Aug. 3, bringing with it winds of 73 miles an hour.

The storm uprooted and knocked down a large number of trees around base. Bldg. 281 in Area A experienced roof damage from the high winds.

People in base housing also reported minor structural damage, and a number of power outages also were reported around base. One particular outage was the air conditioning in visiting officers quarters, Bldg. 826 in Area A. The unit was blown out by a surge, caused by a lightning strike.

Members of 88th Air Base Wing Civil Engineer Directorate immediately began picking up debris, having trees cut up and removed and street sweepers out to do final touches on roads for motorists to travel safely.

Tom Davis, 88th ABW/CE Operations and Maintenance chief, said civil engineers have been working diligently since the evening of Aug. 3.

“We are only 90 percent finished with the clean up,” he said.

According to Mr. Davis, the final tally on the damage will be about \$75,000. *(Courtesy of the Skywriter)*

# SAFETY



Remember  
When

**Sept. 18, 1947**

The U.S. Air Force became a separate military service.

*Happy Birthday  
Air Force!*

## Promotions

### Master Sergeant

Jeffrey Barsaloux, 446th AMXS  
Allen Davis, 446th AMXS  
Aundrea Gonzales, 728th AS  
Candice Newberry, 446th AES  
Jeffrey Robertson, 446th CES

### Technical Sergeant

David Gallegos, 446th MXS  
Robert Jimenez, 446th OSF  
Jeffrey Johnson, 446th AMDS  
Thomas Kirk, 446th AMXS  
Kenneth MacArthur, 446th OSF  
William Puchar, 446th AMXS  
David Timney, 446th AMXS  
Myrna Trubey, 446th MSS  
Nathan Williamson, 728th AS  
Brian Worthen, 446th AMXS

### Staff Sergeant

Larry Aegerter, 446th OSF  
Joshua Allen, 446th AMXS  
Jay Carlton, 446th MXS  
James Fabian, 86th APS  
Kelly Hipps, 446th MOF  
Gary Kaiser, 446th AMXS  
Frank Kehoe, 446th AMXS  
Brandy Kerker, 446th AMDS  
Rufus Loggins, 446th CES  
Michael MacDonald, 728th AS  
Randall Tutt, 446th AES  
Sharon Vassell, 446th AMDS  
James Ward, 446th ASTS

### Senior Airman

Jacob Barton, 446th ASTS  
Derek Brady, 728th AS  
Jerrod Carstensen, 446th AMXS  
James Casson, 446th AMXS  
Bree Davis, 86th APS  
Erskine Dunson, 446th AMXS  
Kyle Endofhorn, 97th AS

Floyd, Eleanordawn, 36th APS  
Jason, Frame, 446th AMXS  
Michael Galbraith, 446th AMXS  
Nathaniel Hackett, 446th AMXS  
Amy Harvey, 446th MXS  
Travis Marion, 446th MXS  
Maria Hanke, 446th SVF  
Tyler Hayes, 446th AMXS  
Tyler Hoops, 446th AMXS  
Loren Hoviland, 446th AMXS  
Ashley Johnson, 86th APS  
Andrew Lancaster, 446th AMXS  
Alicia McKinely, 446th MSS  
John Merilatt, 446th AMXS  
Zane Perry, 446th MXS  
Casey Rogers, 446th AMXS  
Deidra Shinn, 446th AES  
Juliana Swain, 446th MSS  
Duy Tran, 446th MXS  
Molly Webb, 446th AMXS  
Emily White, 446th AMDS  
Caleb Zettel, 446th MXS

### Airman First Class

Matthew Maronay, 446th AMDS  
Heather Nevius, 446th AES  
Sydney Reed, 446th AES  
Joseph Vargo, 446th SVF  
Tammy Zinkle, 446th AMDS

### Airman

Amanda Swenson, 446th AES

## Newcomers

### Captain

George Lafrazia, 446th CES

### Technical Sergeant

Brian Flott, 446th AMXS  
John Guertler, 446th MXS

### Staff Sergeant

Adam Bowens, 446th CES

David Buchanan, 446th SFS  
Nathan Burke, 446th AMDS  
Eric Ellis, 446th SFS  
Karin Henson, 86th APS  
Allyson Karlen, 446th MXS  
Alisa Mills, 446th AES  
Justin Pollard, 446th CES  
Osmant Pyle, 446th AES  
Daniel Roth, 446th AMXS

### Senior Airman

James Fabian, 86th APS  
Douglas Hawkins 446th AMXS  
Chris Hokans, 36th APS  
Keith Nagel, 446th CES  
John Stearny, 446th MXS  
James Vanson, 446th MXS  
Anissa White, 446th LRF  
Daniel Williamson, 446th AMXS

### Airman First Class

Savannah Batiste, 446th AMXS  
Thomas Barrett, 446th MXS  
Michael Bonoan, 728th AS  
Maria Lopez, 446th SVF  
Michael Robinson, 446th AMXS

### Airman

Mariah Ryding, 446th AMDS

## Retirements

### Lieutenant Colonel

Dale Huhmann, 97th AS

### Master Sergeant

Lori McCracken, 446th AW  
Ronald Riveira, 446th MXS  
Michael Rudner, 728th AS  
Timothy Sertich, 97th AS  
Richard Vargo Jr., 446th MXS  
Gary Wurts 446th AMXS



# Just Briefly

## What do you think of when you remember the attacks of Sept. 11?

People

"I remember feeling sad for the family members of those people that were still in the air receiving phone calls prior to the crash in Pennsylvania."



◆ *Master Sgt. David Anderson*  
446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Reminder

"I was pretty numb. I couldn't react to it. I have sad memories; it is a reminder not to let it happen again."



◆ *Senior Airman Kate Dory*  
446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Liberty

"The whole thing was an attack on our freedom and rights. A threat to our freedom, an attack on sanctity of liberty, freedom our human rights."



◆ *Senior Airman Joyce Spence*  
446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Freedom

"It reminds me how important our freedom is and how important it is to remember the men and women who fight for that freedom."



◆ *Tech. Sgt. Gary Crawford*  
446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

### Next wing-wide Employer Orientation Day is Oct. 21

Nominations are now being accepted for Employer Orientation Day Oct. 21. Nomination forms are available from 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs. Deadline for submission is Oct. 6. Stop by public affairs in Bldg. 1214 or call 982-3330 to have one sent to you electronically.

### Wing NCO takes honor graduate title at first sergeant academy

Master Sgt. Todd Lamphere, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, was selected as the Air Force Reserve Command Honor Graduate at the First Sergeant Academy.

### Wing officials announce 2006 second quarter award winners

For the second quarter of 2006, the following Reservists were selected as quarterly award winners in their categories. The winners will be included in the competition for annual awards at the end of the year.

Airman – Senior Airman Nicole Cyrus, 728th Airlift Squadron

NCO – Staff Sgt.. Burke Stott, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SNCO – Master Sgt.. Joe Hunt Jr., 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### AFRC names McChord lieutenant for General Lew Allen Award

Air Force Reserve Command recently announced the selection of 1st Lt. Chad Eason as the AFRC nominee for the General Lew Allen, Jr., Trophy (officer) award for 2005. Lieutenant Eason is assigned to the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

### 4th Air Force announces 446th sweep of Lance P. Sijan Awards

Reservists in the 446th Airlift Wing swept the 4th Air Force Lance P. Sijan awards and will now be considered for the Air Force Reserve Command-level for the awards. Winners are - Senior Officer, Lt. Col. Gregory Pyke, 97th Airlift Squadron; Junior Officer, Capt. Lara Wills, 728th Airlift Squadron; Senior Enlisted, Chief Master Sgt. James Caron, 97th AS; Junior Enlisted, Tech. Sgt. Robert Farrell, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

### New decal and line badge hours

The McChord Visitor Control Center at the main gate will only issue decals for cars Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For Unit Training Assemblies, the 62nd Security Forces Squadron's Pass & Registration at Bldg. 100 will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturday only for decal issue and Restricted

Area Badges. Please plan accordingly.

### Enlisted positions available within wing safety office

The 446th Airlift Wing Safety Office is currently looking for applicants for several safety positions. Positions available are for ground safety specialist and weapons safety specialist. Reservists will have to cross train into a new Air Force Specialty Code. If you would like to know more, please contact Senior Master Sgt Dave Ponce at 982-9136 or david.ponce@mcchord.af.mil. Reservists must also have a minimum of 55 General ASVAB score and hold the rank of staff or technical sergeant.

Another available position is as a wing Operational Risk Management advisor. This position is an additional duty position with your unit commander's approval. For more information, please contact Maj. Kevin Welin at 982-9137.

Civilian Personnel now taking Temporary Student position applications

There are four anticipated vacancies in the 446th Airlift Wing through the Student Temporary Employment Program. The salary is \$21,681 annually. The appointment is for one year and can be renewed. Applications will be accepted until all the positions are filled. For more information contact Janice Arnold at 982-5685.

### Maintenance group has career assistance advisor vacancy

The 446th Maintenance Group has an opening for a group career assistance advisor. This is a master sergeant position. You must immediately meet all requirements for promotion to master sergeant. In this position you will be the principal advisor during the "A" UTA, to the group commander and supervisors on retention issues. Applicants should submit a letter of recommendation from their commander and a military resume to 446 MXG/CC by Oct. 15. For more information, call Master Sgt. Marjorie Evans, 446th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor, at 982-7427.

### Newcomers tour needs guides to show Reservists around base

The 446th Airlift Wing needs tour guides for the newcomer orientation program. Tour guide duties include greeting newcomers at wing headquarters and introducing them to the base through a guided and scripted bus tour of base facilities and a C-17 aircraft. Applicants must be a staff sergeant or above with a working knowledge of the base. Those interested should contact Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Greiner at Patrick.Greiner1@McChord.AF.MIL for A team and Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Anderson at Margaret.Anderson@McChord.AF.MIL for B team.

# McChord crews kick off Deep Freeze

**HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AFPN)** – A C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., has flown four missions from Christchurch, New Zealand, kicking off the 2006 to 2007 season for Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica, known as Operation Deep Freeze.

Operation Deep Freeze involves active-duty and Reserve C-17 support from McChord AFB, LC-130 support from the New York Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers, and the U.S. Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One to provide critical port services at McMurdo Station.

Servicemembers and equipment will stage to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from Christchurch, via C-17 to prepare the ice runway for main C-17 and LC-130 operations beginning in October.

“Operation Deep Freeze is a unique joint and total force mission that has supported the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955,” said Maj. Gen. Edward



Photo by Maj. Steve Mortensen  
A McChord Air Force Base crew member poses in front of a U.S. Air Force Base C-17A Globemaster jet out of McChord AFB, Washington, parked during sunrise at Pegasus Runway, McMurdo Station, Ross Island, Antarctica in this 2005 file photo. McMurdo is one of three U.S. research stations on Antarctica. The National Science Foundation operates them all.

Rice Jr., commander of 13th Air Force and Kenney Headquarters. “Kenney Headquarters is proud to lead the mission in its 51st year.”

Main resupply operations consist of C-17 supply flights between Christchurch and McMurdo Station, and LC-130 flights from McMurdo to the South Pole and other camps throughout Antarctica.

Vessel resupply operations consist of two Military Sealift Command vessels delivering fuel and supplies to McMurdo Station. In early January, prior to the vessels’ arrival, a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker will cut

a channel through miles of ice allowing the ships access to the McMurdo Ice Pier.

All deployed forces are scheduled to return home by the end of February, depending on completion of airlift operations.

“Operation Deep Freeze is unlike any other U.S. military operation and is one of our most demanding peacetime missions due to the extreme adversity of the environment and the remoteness of Antarctica,” said General Rice, who also serves as JTF-SFA commander.

“Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, most inhospitable

continent on the globe, and Operation Deep Freeze provides a challenging opportunity to demonstrate the reach and flexibility of air power, the capabilities of the joint force and the integrated support of active-duty, Guard and Reserve military personnel,” the general said.

The U.S. military is uniquely equipped to assist the National Science Foundation in the accomplishment of its mission to explore Antarctica, and the Kenney Headquarters Pacific Air Operations Center has the capability to provide joint operational and logistics support to the NSF around the clock.

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