



Inspection prep takes Reservists to Michigan

By Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor
 Wing Public Affairs

Reserve and active-duty Airmen here returned tired, but well-trained, after a week-long deployment to Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Michigan May 2-8.

The mobility exercise was the second of three such training scenarios designed to prepare McChord Airmen for both real-world deployments and the operational readiness inspection scheduled for October.

Once at Alpena, members of the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings joined forces with Airmen from the 319th Air Refueling Wing from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. The three wings then operated under one air expeditionary wing and fought a simulated war that involved intensive around-the-clock training.

"I'm pleased with the attitude of our Airmen and their sense of urgency during this exercise," said Col. Michael Hornitschek, vice commander,

62nd Airlift Wing and acting commander for the MobEx. "They were willing to immerse themselves in the scenarios we presented and work to effectively solve problems as a team."

Exercise evaluation team members were on hand to critique Airmen on their ability to survive potential chemical and missile attacks, yet still be able to complete essential job tasks.

"Wearing a chemical mask for hours at a time was challenging," said Staff Sgt. Lanisha Metz, 36th Aerial Port Squadron. "But being able to mentally prepare for a potential chemical attack and still get more proficient at my job was a huge learning experience."

The leadership of the 446th AW seemed to concur.

"I was pumped up, and so were our Airmen," said Col. Craig Petersen, 446th Mission Support Group commander. "Colonel Hornitschek adopted the mission theme, 'Bring It On,'

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor
An Airman in full protective gear awaits further instructions after a "bug out" exercise at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center May 5. The mobility exercise combined active-duty and Reserve Airmen from McChord, as well as Airmen from Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Wing news to go all Web in July

By Sandra Pishner
 Wing Public Affairs

Over the past year, the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff has been soliciting wing Reservists to visit the wing's public Web site.

Home e-mail addresses were asked for, postcards were sent home encouraging

Reservists and their families to sign up for the Web site's e-mail service, ads about the site were printed monthly in the 446th Associate Press, and announcements were made at Commander's Calls. Those efforts to spread the word have culminated in this, the second to last printed issue of the 446th Associate Press.

In July, your last 446th Associate Press

will be a special issue highlighting the newsletter's 38 year history.

That's right. Reservists with the 446th Airlift Wing will no longer receive a monthly newsletter with news and information about all the great work they do, all

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June 19 is the deadline for articles in the July 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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True professionals in wing

By Col. Jon Huguley

■ — 446th Maintenance Group

Wow! It is great to be here in the great Northwest and to join Team McChord." That's how I started my assumption of command comments more than five years ago.

During my tenure at McChord, I have had the privilege to serve with truly the best. Every year brought new and repeatable challenges that you met with outstanding results. This was made possible because you did not rest on past successes, but used them to make steps to the next level.

You took actions to prepare yourself and your units to meet the next challenge. The secret to your successes was being proud, prepared, performing professionals. There is nothing wrong with being proud.

When I joined the 446th Airlift Wing, I was impressed with the many awards and trophies proudly displayed throughout the wing. Although these accomplishments took a lot of personal time and effort, you demonstrated exceptional pride by dedicating additional time and resources to recognize your Airmen's achievements. From preparing

decoration and award packages to organization recognition events, your actions inspired a heritage of excellence for the next generation.

These accomplishments were the result of being prepared. Preparation is difficult and tedious. However, taking the time to complete the training requirements and developing your technical skills are the primary steps to being prepared. Your persistence and commitment to being ready set the stage for producing a culture of excellence.

The leadership led the effort by aligning priorities to capture opportunities to develop the skills and expertise of every member. Once prepared, you performed. Whether it was Rodeo, air shows, exercises, inspections or deployments, you took these opportunities to perform with outstanding results.

Your ability to perform was clearly demonstrated in support of critical missions at home and aboard. Your contributions were regularly documented by decorations and accolades from commanders who were the beneficiary of your amazing talents, further validating your outstanding capabilities. And to top it off, your professionalism was visu-



Col. Jon Huguley

ally evident.

Professionalism is not accidentally produced. It is the result of a deliberate plan set in motion by staying engaged through each level. It is developed by taking personal time and resources to participate in conferences, workshops, and completing professional education courses. You have truly demonstrated that proud, prepared, performing professionals breed success.

And now as I close my tour at McChord, I look back and say "WOW!!! It has been great to be here in the great Northwest and to have been a member of Team McChord." Thanks for allowing Susan and me to share in your successes and truly work with the best.

*You are cordially invited
to
the 446th Maintenance Group
Change of Command Ceremony
Aug. 9, 2009
at 1 p.m.*

Medical pros earn praise overseas

By Master Sgt. Ken Bielas

■ —446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Air Force Reserve Command commander, recently recognized deployed McChord Reserve Airmen, along with the rest of their medical team, by handing out commander coins in a ceremony during his recent visit to Bagram AB, Afghanistan.

The commander recognized these medical professionals for providing medical care during the repatriation of a government official

Lt. Cols. Eric Johnson and Dan Berg, and Master Sgt. Ken Bielas, Critical Care Transport Team from the 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, along with Tech. Sgt. Selina Barone, a senior aeromedical evacuation technician from the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, were recognized during a Commander's Call held by General

Stenner. The combined medical team and its leadership were comprised completely of Reservists. General Stenner recognized the experience Reservists bring to the war effort, allowing short-notice missions such as this one to be accomplished without incident.

Initially, the medical condition of the government official was unknown and thought to be dire. The combined Aeromedical/Critical Care Air Transport Team was dispatched to provide any medical treatment needed during the initial portions of his return home. The medical team Airmen were recognized for their excellent medical care and flexibility during the repatriation effort.

Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander, also recognized the combined aeromedical team, along with the aircrew involved (comprised completely of National Guard members) in a separate ceremony. General Holmes also stated that without the Airmen's speed and

flexibility, the mission might have been a failure.

"It was the unknown nature of the mission that made it exciting and challenging at the same time," said Sergeant Barone. "I felt honored to be a part of the repatriation of an American and to work with all the [government agencies] that made the mission go off flawlessly."

Members credited their many training missions working together at home station for the flawless nature of the mission.

"The work our two units do together at McChord is critical to being able to accomplish these missions without a hitch," Colonel Berg said.

While this has by far been their highest profile tasking, the members involved take great and equal pride in all their missions, caring for the wounded heroes of America and coalition forces.



Meet the chief

Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy has been selected to replace Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, who will be retiring at the end of June. Chief Roy currently is the senior enlisted advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander.

August seminar set to inspire leadership

By Sandra Pishner

■ —Wing Public Affairs

The 446th Airlift Wing's annual career workshop is now the Professional Development seminar. This year's theme is "Leading Regardless of Rank."

The next seminar is Aug. 10-11, in Hangar 9. The cost is free. All enlisted Reservists and junior officers are invited.

According to Master Sgt. James Briggs, workshop organizer, topics at the seminar will center on leadership at all levels.

"The first person we lead is ourselves, regardless of rank," said Sergeant Briggs. "So basically, it's an inside out job to get our own leadership rolling. We will have talks on building partnerships, inspiring trust, the power of associations, and views about turning challenges into victories."

Guest speakers will provide

perspectives from higher command.

"I'm really excited that Brigadier General Eric Crabtree (4th Air Force commander), our former commander, is scheduled to speak. He always has great insights and is a very inspiring speaker," said Sergeant Briggs.

So how does a seminar on leadership help both enlisted and junior officers? According to Sergeant Briggs, it's all about what each person does with the information they receive.

"We all face challenges and the talks should allow all participants to opportunity to be inspired to create new and better solutions for the Air Force work place, their civilian jobs, and their own personal lives," said Sergeant Briggs.

If you are interested in participating in this seminar, contact your unit career advisor.

Reservists drive deployment support

By Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Wing Public Affairs

Support for ongoing operations doesn't always mean deploying overseas. Such is the case with Reserve transportation specialists from the 86th Aerial Port Squadron here.

The 86th APS has been filling in at McChord for deployed Airmen from the 62nd Airlift Wing's transportation operation. The Reservists have been called upon to assist with transportation throughout the base for both the 62nd and 446th AW.

"We have been helping out with whatever the 62nd AW needs," said Master Sgt. Daniel Bridges, 86th APS. "We help take active-duty Airmen coming and going to billeting, off base, or wherever they need to go. If (the remaining) active-duty drivers go on 12 hour shifts, we go on 12 hour shifts."

On top of filling in for deployed active-duty drivers, the 86th APS has deployed personnel as well. Four of the eight drivers from the 86th APS are currently deployed.

The 86th APS find themselves helping out the 62nd AW often because of McChord's host wing's constant rotating deployments. As soon as one group of active-duty Airmen returns from deployment,

another is sent – all without skipping a beat.

"I've been filling in for deployed active-duty Airmen since September of last year," Sergeant Bridges said with a nod. Overall, being spread thin has not increased stress or workload to unmanageable proportions, he said.

Supporting the base as a Reservist on active-duty is seen as an opportunity by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hall, 86th APS, to do more than the usual on a unit training assembly weekend.

Among her driving duties she picks people up returning on rotator flights, and delivers aircrews to their aircraft as they depart on missions. But, Sergeant Hall is also taking the road less travelled with an assigned route to combat arms training. Each route is another opportunity to learn more about McChord AFB and all it has within its boundaries.

"Working with the 62nd AW has really given my whole experience a 'Team McChord' atmosphere," said Sergeant Bridges with a nod.

"It's been fairly easy, everybody pulls their end; even with the mundane vehicle maintenance that's required," concluded Sergeant Bridges.



Photo by Airman First Class Patrick Cabellon
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hall, 86th Aerial Port Squadron, drives a bus with 446th Security Forces Squadron Airmen to Combat Arms Training and Marksmanship on Fort Lewis.

WEB

Continued from Page 1

the key events coming up, or all the critical information affecting their pay, their duty requirements or anything else affecting their careers.

All this same information, however, will be available exclusively on the wing's public Web site. If you haven't seen it yet, you might want to take a moment or two to visit the site at www.446aw.afrc.af.mil

Don't let the "dot mil" ending of the Web address fool you. This site is accessible from any computer with Internet access.

Feel free to bookmark the Web site in your favorites. And, if you aren't already

receiving the e-mail alerts that let you know when the Web site has new content, go ahead and sign up for it. Don't worry; you'll only get one e-mail a week.

Encourage your families to visit the site as well. Not only will they be able to keep up with what you're doing as an Air Force Reservist, they'll find news and information pertinent to them.

Why is the wing eliminating the award-winning 446th Associate Press? To save money, save time (yours and the public affairs staff's), and to deliver news and information to a much wider audience in a more timely manner. Don't be shy, join us at www.446aw.afrc.af.mil.

ALPENA

Continued from Page 1

and I think everybody did."

Coordinating the efforts of three wings from two bases was a challenge that required careful planning to execute.

"I think each wing gained knowledge of the efficiencies and attributes that the others bring to the fight," said Col. Henry Polczer, 319th ARW Operations Group commander. "We really appreciate the airlift expertise demonstrated by Team McChord."

For first-time participants like Senior Airman Mike Pritchett, a 36th APS ramp loader, this MobEx was an eye-opening experience, despite the sleep deprivation.

"There was a lot of cama-

raderie between Reservists and the 62nd," said Pritchett. "Plus, I think my waist has lost a couple inches from all the sweating—that will probably help with my fitness test."

Indeed, despite the demanding operations tempo of the exercise, Airmen seemed to be appreciative of the lessons learned.

"This gets me excited about learning my career field," said Staff Sgt. Robert Cole, a paralegal with the 446th AW Judge Advocate office. "I get to see how my job is an important piece of the pie and contributes to the overall mission."

Next up for Team McChord - a second flyaway to Alpena in September, followed by the ORI in October. Bring it on!

McChord Reservists support NASA

By Tech. Sergeant Nick Przybyciel
Wing Public Affairs

An aircrew of five Reservists from the 313th Airlift Squadron here helped support NASA May 5-7 by flying a pair of cutting-edge radar apertures and support equipment to Thule, Greenland, for testing.

The two radar units are intended to monitor global climate change by mapping Earth's surface topography and the deformations in it. If not for the efforts of the 446th AW, the two-months of scheduled flight testing in Greenland may never have happened.

NASA was initially turned down for support by Air Mobility Command due to continuing down-range requirements, so they then turned directly to the 446th AW for help.

"This is a pretty common situation – agencies who may have traditionally received AMC/TACC mission support now find themselves without airlift, so they ask Air Force Reserve Command for help," said Lt. Colonel Ben Morley, 446th AW chief of current operation. "Assuming we can generate an aircraft we try our best to help these folks out."

Colonel Morley noted that both organizations benefit from these missions: The government agency gets free airlift support that is critical to performing its mission, while the 446th AW gains invaluable



Courtesy Photo

An airborne radar pod is in clear view as NASA's Gulfstream-III research aircraft banks away over Edwards AFB during aerodynamic clearance flights. A crew from the 446th AW helped support NASA's field trials of a pair of radars, which are designed to aid in designing future Earth ice topography missions and even missions to map ice on other celestial bodies.



Courtesy Photo

NASA Dryden senior technician David Neufeld prepares JPL's unmanned aircraft Synthetic Aperture Radar pod for inertial swing tests in Dryden's loads laboratory.

experience by flying to areas that crews normally don't have the opportunity to train at.

The Wing has a long and prolific history of supporting scientific agencies like NASA. Due to the cargo carrying capacities of the C-17 Globemaster III and its predecessor, the C-141 Starlifter, Reserve aircrews have supported the National Science Foundation and Homeland Security, among others, in the past.

For this particular mission, Scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Dryden Flight Research Center will test two radar units flown on a pod beneath a Gulfstream III aircraft. The radars, known as the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) and the Glacier and Land Ice Surface Topography Interferometer (GLISTIN),

work by penetrating microwave energy into glaciers, ice streams, and ice-covered topography.

"We hope to better characterize how Arctic ice is changing and how climate change is affecting the Arctic, while gathering data that will be useful for designing future radar satellites," said UAVSAR Principal Investigator Scott Hensley of JPL.

Aside from helping map climate change, the radar units will aid in designing future Earth ice topography missions and even missions to map ice on other celestial bodies.

When testing is complete in early July, another crew of Reservists from the 446th AW will return to Greenland to bring home the NASA team and its gear.

S a f e t y



Days to remember

June 3, 1936

Maj. Ira C. Eaker made the first blind (instruments only) transcontinental flight from New York to Los Angeles lasting through June. 7

Promotions

Technical Sergeant

Lana Grice, 446th ASTS
Justin Haopili, 97th AS
Benjamin Kolesar, 446th AMXS
Michael Norman, 446th AMXS
Jesse Roberts, 446th AMXS

Staff Sergeant

Chad Adamson, 446th AMXS
Raymond Altamirano, 446th AW
Dustin Ballard, 446th MXS
Derek Brady, 728th AS
Christopher Buck, 446th AMXS
Zina Castaneda, 86th APS
Josua Coleman, 446th CES
Jeffrey Cunanan, 86th APS
Deanna Heurman, 313th AS
Sherri Millerscott, 446th MXS
Scott Nelson, 446th ASTS

Senior Airman

Shauna Evanson, 446th MOF
Caleb Heder, 446th AES
Holly Henry, 86th APS

Adam Nelson, 446th AES

Airman First Class

Daniel Henderson, 86th APS

Airman

Sharon Holton, 446th MOF
Nickolas Jones, 446th AMXS

Newcomers

Master Sergeant

Robert Davenport, 97th AS
Todd Mills, 446th AMDS

Staff Sergeant

Roy Benavente, 446th AES
Brandon Lewis, 728th AS
John McCarty, 446th MXS
Jeffrey Peterson, 446th MXS
Brian Wilson, 446th MXS

Senior Airman

Jennifer Chapa, 446th AMXS
Adrienne Ruschak, 446th CES

AnnaMarie Rutherford, 446th MSS

Airman First Class

Adam Passmore, 36th APS
Katie Poorman, 446th MSS
Rebecca Seltun, 36th ASP

Retirements

Colonel

Donald Sinden, 446th AMDS

Senior Master Sergeant

Jimmy Brazzle, 97th AS
David Poulsen, 446th AES

Master Sergeant

Timothy Breeden, 313th AS
Kraig Goff, 446th CES
Daniel VanZanten, 446th SFS

Technical Sergeant

Anthony Fields, 36th APS
Dennis Harris, 86th APS
Allen Jolley, 446th MXS
Daniel Murphy, 446th MSS

Accessories make the uniform, if done right

By Senior Master Sgt. Karilyn Schmidt

■ 446th Maintenance Squadron

Every outfit needs accessories, right? Well, you can accessorize your uniform, as long as you remain within the guidelines outlined in AFI 36-2903.

Women often add additional items to the basic uniform, which raises questions about whether it is in compliance. Here are some quick tips to remember:

Handbags – Must be solid black leather or vinyl with no more than a single silver or gold clasp for ornamentation. Cannot have white stitching, patterns, tassels or buckles, or exceed 13 x 9 x 4-1/2 inches deep. A fabric, suede or shiny patent leather clutch purse is only authorized with the mess dress uniform.

Hair bands/clips – Hairpins, headbands, and barrettes must match your hair color. Hair ribbons, scrunchies, and beaded/jeweled pins are not authorized.

Earrings – Must be small, conservative, and round, and can be diamond, gold, pearl, or silver.

All earrings must be worn as a set, and can be worn with any uniform combination.

Nail polish – Must be a single color that compliments your skin tone, or a French manicure. Extreme colors such as purple, gold, blue, black, bright fire-engine-red, or fluorescent colors are not allowed. Nail length cannot exceed one quarter inch.

Sunglasses – Faddish styles and mirrored lenses are not allowed. Sunglasses with minimal ornamentation are allowed, and frames may be black or brown material or gold or silver wire. A small brand name logo is allowed if it is the same color as the frames or lenses. Conservative wrap-around sunglasses may be worn. No sunglasses (to include darkened photosensitive lenses) are allowed in formation. Glasses cannot be worn around the neck, on top/back of head, or exposed hanging on the uniform.

Now that you have this quick reference, go ahead and make your fashion statement! But, of course if you have additional questions, ask your first sergeant, or look it up in AFI 36-2903.

Just Briefly

What are your plans for Summer fun in the sun?

Hawaii

Going to Hawaii to play some golf and go snorkeling.



◆ Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Dietz
86th Aerial Port Squadron

Rodeo

Rodeo training - run, run, run!



◆ Chief Master Sgt. Edwin Stewart
446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Gardening

Catching up on neglected gardening, post-deployment.



◆ Tech. Sgt. Michael Shaudis
446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Camping

I plan on doing some camping and staying safe.



◆ Master Sgt. Robert Zundel
446th Civil Engineer Squadron

Maintenance group change of command set for August

Col. Jon Huguley will hand off command of the 446th Maintenance Group to Col. William Anholt on Aug. 9 at 1 p.m., in a ceremony in Hangar 9. Colonel Huguley is moving to Robins AFB, Ga., to take a civilian position. Colonel Anholt is coming to McChord from Travis AFB, Calif.

Airlift Control Flight set to decommission after 25 years

After 25 years of service, the 446th Airlift Control Flight is being decommissioned in a ceremony July 12 at 10 a.m., in Hangar 12. All wing members are invited to pay a final tribute to the 446th ALCF. Please RSVP no later than June 26 to 446alcf.ccq@mcchord.af.mil. Dress for the ceremony will be uniform of the day or business casual as appropriate to your status.

Wing host families of Reservists for fun and food in August

As a way to thank you for all your hard work and dedication, and to thank your families for their support, the 446th Airlift Wing is throwing a party.

Come and join us for the wing's Family Day Aug. 8 at 10 a.m.

Food will be provided by vendors at a low cost. Menu includes hamburgers, brats, corn on the cob, pulled pork and more. Snacks included popcorn, cotton candy, sno-cones, root beer floats, and lemonade. There will be games, activities for kids such as inflatable slides and bouncy rooms, and more.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the picnic, contact Lt. Col. Ron Limes at 982-2306.

Visit a veteran in July

Reservist interested in visiting with veterans at American Lake VA Hospital can join together for a planned visit on July 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. We are limited to 25 visitors. Those wishing to carpool should meet at 5:30 p.m., in the parking lot of Bldg. 1214, the 446th Airlift Wing headquarters.

First sergeants are accepting donations of toiletries for the veterans, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, nail clippers and nail files, liquid body soap (men and women), mouthwash, and deodorant. Do not bring any razors. You may also bring sugar-free snacks to share with the veterans.

We would also like to bring DVD's of all titles and categories to enhance their movie selection. Please call Senior Master Sgt. Theron Smith at 982-5041 or e-mail him at theron.smith@mcchord.af.mil to let him or your first sergeant know that

you would like to sign up. Uniform of the day is the dress for this visit.

Officers of the Quarter

The 446th Airlift Wing officers of the quarter for the first quarter are: Company grade – Capt. Frank Bonnin, 446th Maintenance Operations Flight and, Field Grade – Maj. Colin Keen, 313th Airlift Squadron.

Gen. Lew Allen Trophy

The General Lew Allen Jr. Trophy selection board has selected Master Sgt. Randall Wentz, 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, as the Fourth Air Force nominee to compete at the Air Force Reserve Command level for the General Lew Allen Jr. Trophy.

Airman of the month in Iraq

Staff Sgt. (senior airman at the time) Colleen Payne from the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was selected as Airman of the Month for April 2009 at Ali al Salem, Iraq.

New BAH rules for non-custodial parents take effect July 1

Effective July 1, the single BAH rate will be applied to all non-custodial parent Reservists divorced from another military member, regardless of child support obligations.

Members meeting this criteria will need to notify the Reserve pay office before July 1 to update their records. Failure to do so may cause overpayment of entitlement, which must then be reclaimed by the government.

New Per Diem policy in effect

A new policy on per diem is applicable to Air Force Reserve members on active duty for more than 180 days at one location. As of June 2, members on temporary duty for greater than 180 days at one location must have Secretarial waiver approval to receive per diem. Per diem is not payable to members in a commuting status.

This policy does not apply to TDY per diem when members are on long-term orders and travel to other locations. For more information, contact your unit orders clerk.

Bill passes that helps military Washington state employees

HB 1548, recently passed by the Washington legislature, eliminates the member obligation to pay for interruptive military service credit. Details on how this will be administered are still being worked out, but you can track the progress at www.drs.wa.gov.

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NEWS/LOCAL

Education benefit options vary

By 2nd. Lt. Candice Allen
Wing Public Affairs

Chapters 1606, 1607, and 33 are not in books, but they'll help you pay for your books for college. They all refer to the educational benefits Reservists have at their disposal.

Now more than ever, Reservists can choose from several different educational benefits. Think of it as shopping for clothes - it's not just a "one size fits all" benefit anymore.

Chapter 1606

With the Montgomery GI Bill -Selected Reserve, all Reservists who enlist for at least six years are eligible and can use the benefit if they remain active in the Reserve. As of Oct. 1, 2008, the current monthly rate for the Chapter 1606 is \$329 for a full-time student.

After Sept. 11, 2001, more educational benefits trickled down and Reservists could shop around a bit more.

Chapter 1607

A Reservist who serves on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001 for a contingency operation and who serves at least 90 consecutive days or more is eligible for the Reserve Educational Assistance Program-Chapter

1607. Reservists who served on active duty for three months will receive \$528.40, one year \$792.60, and two or more years \$1056.80 of monthly GI bill benefits.

Chapter 33

The new Post 9/11 GI Bill -Chapter 33 will offer Reservists the largest increase of educational benefits ever beginning Aug. 1.

"With REAP (Chapter 1607), you need 90 days of continuous active-duty orders to qualify," said Master Sgt. Robin Weiss, 446th Mission Support Squadron's superintendent of the wing training and education flight. "Whereas with Chapter 33, your active-duty time just needs to be cumulative, meaning if you have a total of 36 months of active-duty time in support of a contingency, you qualify for 100 percent of the active-duty benefits."

Reservists are able to take advantage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill if they have served at least 90 aggregate days of active duty service in a support of a contingency after Sept. 11, 2001.

The post-9/11 GI Bill benefits include a new basic allowance for housing stipend, transferable educational benefits to dependents, a books and supplies stipend, and the Yellow Ribbon GI enhancements.

The largest change to the GI bill is the

ability to transfer your educational benefits to your dependents.

"We receive a lot of questions about transferability, everyone wants to know about it," said Sergeant Weiss.

Department of Veterans Affairs representatives are accepting sign-ups for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Defense Department officials are working to get the word out on the proposed policy regarding the bill's transferability provisions to help service-members decide if the new benefit is right for them.

Additional details are available direct from the Veteran's Affairs office at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). In addition, the following site has information on all GI Bill programs - www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm

For some Reservists there may be a downside to the Chapter 33.

Chapter 33 pays directly to the institution of higher learning, whereas Chapters 1606 and 1607 paid the Reservists directly, said Sergeant Weiss. Also, Reservists cannot use their kicker benefit with Chapter 33.

There are a lot of educational benefits to choose from and one size does not fit all. If you are interested in discussing your options and what fits for you, talk to the wing training and education office today.