

ANGEL'S WINGS

920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base Florida

VOLUME 4, NO. 10



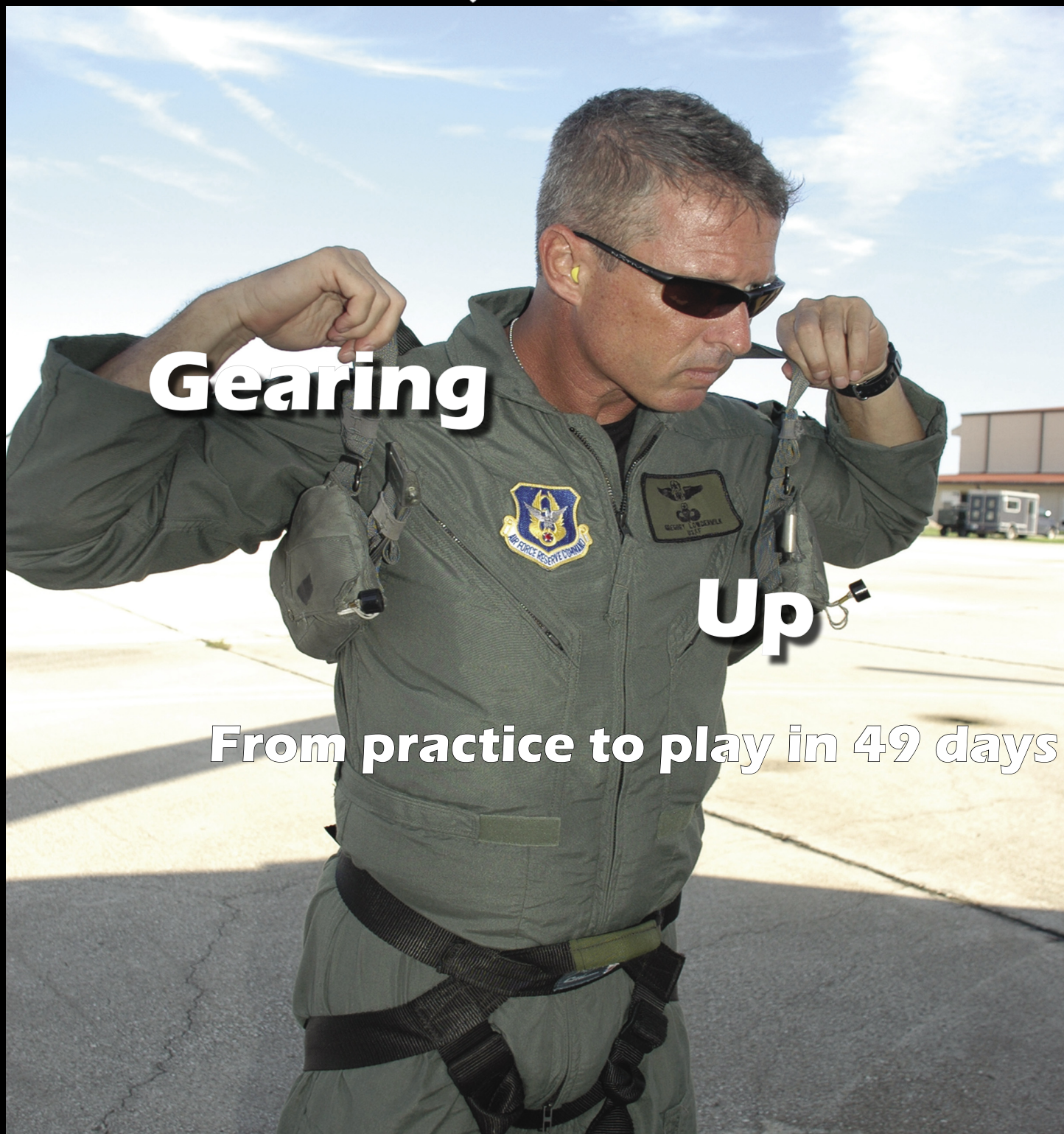
AIR FORCE RESERVE

OCTOBER 2006

Gearing

Up

From practice to play in 49 days





Col. Steven Kirkpatrick
Wing Commander

1st Lt. Cathleen Snow
Chief of Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Jaime Pinto
Assistant Chief of Public Affairs

Master Sgt.
Raymond Padgett
NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. Shane Smith
Staff Writer

Senior Airman Heather Kelly
Staff Writer

Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Editor

This authorized Air Force Reserve newspaper is published for the members of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Contents of Angel's Wings are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 920th Rescue Wing, 740 O'Malley Road, building 559, Patrick AFB, FL 32925. (321) 494-0535. The deadline for submission is the Friday after the UTA for the next month's issue. All photos are the property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

On the Cover:



The 920th Rescue Wing embraces the opportunity to shine in its upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection. Airmen on the ORI team dotted their "I's" and crossed their "T's" during the 10th Air Force Readiness Assistance Visit. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow)

Please read: Before you whip out the plastic

By Col. Frank Dolcater

Maintenance Group Commander

As everyone knows, abuse of the Government Travel Card program is a major concern. Despite briefings and interest from all levels of command, some people still use the card wrongly or fail to pay their bills on time. I was the GTC Program Coordinator for more than three years at another base and there I observed several facts that I hope will wake some folks up and keep others out of trouble.

1. The purpose of the GTC program is not to enhance your personal standard of living. Instead its only purpose is to provide you with a short-term loan to cover your official travel expenses.

2. Currently, there is no authorized use of the card for travel expenses related to Unit Training Assembly attendance. The only exception requires commander's approval.

3. As some folks have painfully discovered, there is nothing you do with the card that an Agency Program Coordinator (APC) can't see. Transaction and delinquency reports run every month and describe to commanders your card activity in excruciating detail.

4. Travel voucher reimbursement is NOT your money. It's your money minus what you owe on your card. Far too many people forget that simple fact. You won't get any sympathy from your commander if you are late on your bill because you've blown your wad on something else.

5. Learn to live within the rules. What are the rules? There are two basic sets; one for UTAs and one for when you are on orders. UTAs are easiest so let's

cover those first. On UTA weekends do yourself a favor: DON'T use your GTC. There is no legitimate use of the card for anything while in UTA status other than as previously stated. Why? For one, the government already pays for your lodging and for two, (for enlisted personnel) your meals are free. Thirdly, you must be on orders to use the GTC. The card is designated by DoD regulation for official travel use only. Unless the rules are changed, inactive duty for training doesn't constitute official travel because there are no orders involved.

On orders it depends on what they say about your entitlements. The general rule of thumb when on orders is, IF YOU CAN'T CLAIM IT ON YOUR TRAVEL VOUCHER AS A LEGITIMATE EXPENSE AND/OR YOUR PER DIEM DOESN'T COVER IT, DON'T USE THE GTC TO PAY FOR IT. Also, look at the statement on meals. If your orders say all meals are provided, then don't use your GTC for commercial meals. If meals are partially provided, then you can use the card to pay for those meals that are not provided by government facilities.

Another caveat: If you live within commuting distance you cannot use the card if you are pulling active duty at home station.

6. Here it is already October and Christmas is just around the corner. I can't wait for the annual DOD announcement: "Christmas is only XX shopping days away. Don't forget to use your GTC to make sure your family and friends have a rich Christmas. Putting your career in jeopardy is nothing

(See PLASTIC, Page 10)

What's inside?

Page 3- Embrace the S.U.C.K.

Page 6 - Gallant Unit Award

Page 8 - Promotions

UTASchedule

Next UTA: Oct 14-15

Nov. 4-5

Dec. 2-3

Jan. 6-7

From RAV to ORI in only 49 days

Wing gears up for inspectable excellence

By 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

Rescue Wing Public Affairs

While television news stations re-aired the horrifying footage of that ill-fated day that challenged the nation 5 years ago, wing members were checking their chemical warfare gear; readying the wing's aircraft; and gearing up.

The 920th Rescue Wing rolled into phase II of their Operational Readiness Exercise, the day (5 years later) that ignited the Global War on Terror, Sept. 11.

In the heat of the day, Camp Patriot began to take shape as sandbags were piled high and bunkers were built by an 18-Airman team. The spotlight shone on Master Sgt. Craig Kennedy and his team, "who were worth their weight in gold," said Lt. Col. Antonio "T.C." Cunha, the ORE warlord.

Since 9/11, 920th RQW warriors have been on approximately 1,600 deployments around the globe. Some have been deployed more than twice.

Due to the nature of combat search and rescue, the wing's operations tempo has remained high. "The majority (of Airmen) in this wing are combat hardened veterans," said Colonel Cunha.

The level of readiness here has been tested again and again and has lead to a scaled down ORI of only two 12-hour days as opposed to the typical for 7 days of 24-hour operations.

"We know how to get iron off the ramp and pick up survivors," said Colonel Cunha. "The difference with the ORI is the ability to survive and operate (ATSO) piece."

"No one can do combat rescue better than the 920th. We are the benchmark bar none," he said.

The difference between the ORI and real war is that this is a show. "We have to carry it out the way we are expected to," he said. "We have to show the inspectors we are the professionals we claim to be."

All the preparations and exercises up to this point have been dress rehearsal before the opening night of the big production. Those who are playing are the actors; the rest of the wing backstage," he said.

He couldn't stress the next point enough, "Everyone in the whole wing is part of the ORI. One team; one fight," he said.

Colonel Cunha was appointed as the ORI coach, so to speak, to vector the wing in the right direction. He's taken the wing to victory before as he was instrumental in the wing's outstanding score on the ORI phase I; which was the deployment phase of the ORI. Similar to a hurrevac. Lt. Col. Marc Diapolo held the job prior to Colonel Cunha. "His team did an awesome job. My job is to take the wing across the finish line," said Colonel Cunha. "Over the last few months since I took over we've been concentrating hard on ATSO."

And so far the hard work has paid off because kudos abounded from Wing Commander, Col. Steve Kirkpatrick, after the readiness assistance visit (RAV).

The wing commander noted, "The ORI will be a more robust scenario, but I know we are going to wow the inspectors."

He also said, to do that; there is some tweaking that needs to be done. We must remain diligent when it comes to buddy checks; bug out procedures; decontaminating before entering a building; hydration; ATSO; Attitude; and Self-Aid and Buddy Care.

"With a lot of hard work we can get an excellent," he said.

Colonel Cunha likened an ORI victory to a football game. "A football team is more than the twenty two players on the playing field," he said. "It doesn't work without the coaches, the water boy, those who sell tickets, etc. When the team wins the Super Bowl everyone gets to wear the ring and bask in the glory."

Embrace the S.U.C.K. of ORI success

By Lt. Col. Antonio "T.C. the war lord" Cunha

Strategy... You need to understand that ORI is not "real-world" combat.... It is the polished approach to warfighting. Having those ATSO basics down cold will allow you to "deviate from plan" during the real thing (just ask anyone who was in the AOR during OIF). So knowing that strategy before going in will help you to better prepare for the ORI.

Unity... This is necessary for effective teamwork. As I've said before, a team needs unity if it is to achieve it's goal. Our strength lies in our belief "...that others may live." This unites the 920th everytime that "call-to-arms" is sounded. It amazes me how many times it is proven again and again, whether hurrevac, civil search and rescue, inspection or war.

Communication... Information needs to be free-flowing, top to bottom. I can't tell you of the many inputs the ORI planning team has received from the lowest senior airman to Col K. himself. Communication is essential to developing ownership of the game. If people know they can be heard and that their inputs may be implemented, they will go the extra mile toward achieving the team's goal.

Knowledge... Well, in the words of a good friend, "you can't play the game if you don't know the rules." Your knowledge for this game resides in the Airman's Manual. That will be the team "playbook" for this ORI. I can't stand when someone "shoots-from-the-hip." I guarantee you the IG feels the same. Utilize your Airman's manual. Tab it, learn it, live it!!

Knight in shining cammo: wing welcomes new exec

By Senior Airman Heather Kelly
Rescue Wing Public Affairs

To be the right-hand man of a wing commander, an Airman has to know a little about a lot. Above all, how to get the job done and how to motivate others to do the same.

As the new executive officer for the 920th Rescue Wing, Maj. Douglas Knight brings all that to the table and a little bit more.

As a former enlisted, active-duty member, Air National Guardsman and now commissioned Air Reserve Technician, Major Knight has held past positions as a supply technician, cook, personnel officer, security police officer, newcomer's flight commander, mission support squadron executive officer and mission support squadron commander before assuming the role of executive officer for Col. Steven Kirkpatrick here.

In his current position, Major Knight serves as head of the commander's support staff.

Responsible for overseeing the wing staff's administrative functions and programs, Major Knight describes his management philosophy as "participative, delegate to the max, and always ready to be 'hands-on' when needed."

Major Knight said he likes to "give people as much authority and responsibility as they can handle and desire. I feel people perform best when they feel they have control of their environment and are motivated by it."

Motivated by the Air Force core values, Major Knight said, "My personal goal is one I think everyone should have, and that is to be the best in the world at whatever it is you do."

In addition to answering the call

to duty, Major Knight is dedicated to answering a call of a different kind.

"Every Sunday, I teach adult Sunday school at the South Patrick Chapel... and play percussion in our church praise band during the...service," he said.

When he isn't practicing with the praise band, Major Knight enjoys cooking and exercising.

On being a successful executive officer and Air Force member, Major Knight said, "I have always tried to ask myself, what is the big picture, what is the mission, how can I help my boss get it done and always try to remember that everyone in the Air

Force is a key player. From the airman first class driving the fork lift to the one-star flying an airplane, they are all key to getting the mission done."

"From the airman first class driving the fork lift to the one-star flying an airplane, they are all key to getting the mission done."

Maj. Doug Knight
Wing Exec



Photo by Senior Airman Heather Kelly

Maj Douglas Knight leads the charge of the wing commander's support staff from his office just opposite of Colonel Kirkpatrick's.

Maintenance Group awards “Save of the Month”

By 2nd Lt. Jaime Pinto
Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 920th Maintenance Group continues to recognize outstanding individuals with the Save of the Month Awards for July and August.

Congratulations to the HH-60 Phase Dock Team, the Save of the Month award winners for August. The team includes Senior Master Sgt. Rick Pico, Technical Sgt. Davis Franklin, Staff Sgt. Ernie Kunde, Staff Sgt. Davis Kramer, and Staff Sgt. Dan Roth.

The H-60 Phase Dock team is responsible for the 600-hour phase inspections, which is an extensive inspection of the entire aircraft.

During a 600-hour inspection the team found a cracked frame on an aircraft, which requires a tool called a cradling



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Pico (left), Tech. Sgt. Davis Franklin, Staff Sgts Ernest Kunde, Davis Kramer and Dan Ross, members of the HH-60 Phase Dock Team spent long inspection hours to make sure the wings “Jollies” are safe to fly. For this work they are the Save of the Month winners for the month of August.

support to repair. The cradling support goes underneath the aircraft to prevent any shifting of the frame while it is being repaired. When the team attempted to repair the frame, they could not find the cradling

support because it had been mistakenly thrown away.

“We had to get this 600-hour inspection complete because the aircraft was scheduled for modification at Moody Air Force Base and we needed to meet this deadline,” said Sergeant Franklin.

In less than two days, the team members had acquired the material and built a new cradling support and finished the frame repairs and 600-hour inspection in time for the aircraft’s modification at Moody.

The team’s expeditious and resourceful actions in creating a new cradling support and meeting the aircraft deadline makes them the Save of the Month award winners for August.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Brian Lefevre, the Save of the Month Award winner

for July.

Due to an illness, the Maintenance Group was short-handed and unable to process the remaining annual tour orders for the year. With less than a day’s notice, Sergeant Lefevre willingly came in during the week to work an extra day to process annual tour orders. Sergeant Lefevre processed all of the 120 remaining orders that day.

“I didn’t realize how many orders needed to be processed so it was a good opportunity to pitch in and help out,” said Sergeant Lefevre.

Sergeant Lefevre’s willingness to drop everything and help complete the remaining annual tour orders makes him the Save of the Month award winner for the month of July.

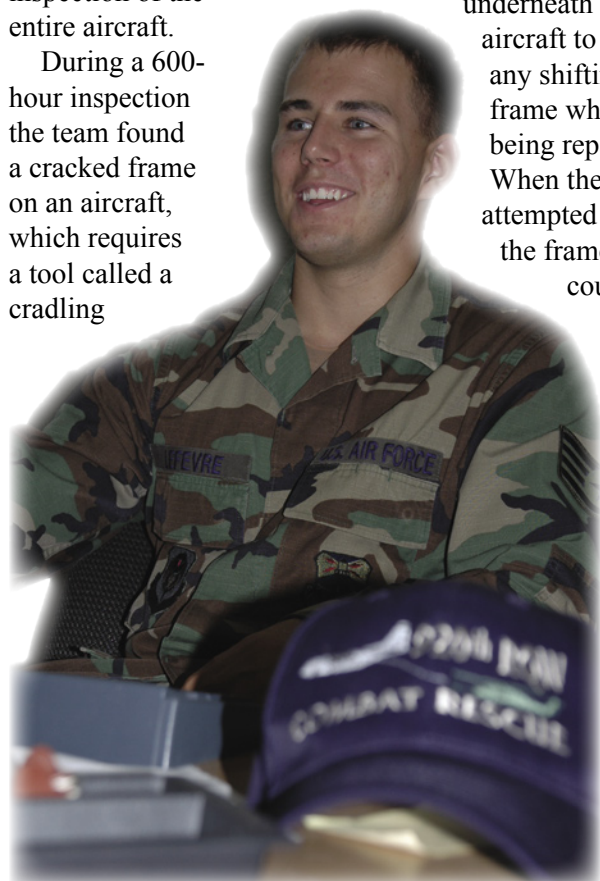


Photo by Senior Airman Heather Kelly

Staff Sgt. Brian Lefavre processed 120 sets of orders in only one day, making him July’s Save of the Month winner.

Gallant unit:

By Tech. Sgt. Shane Smith

Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Within days of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, members of the 39th Rescue Squadron mobilized to Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait to become a crucial component of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group which proved to be the tip of the spear in the War on Terror.

Units that were a part of the 332nd AEG from October 15, 2001 to April 15, 2002, including the 39th RQS were recently awarded the Gallant Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism. This citation is awarded to units that have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing their mission so as to set them apart from and above other units participating in the same conflict.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center's website, "the degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star, which is awarded for gallantry for heroism of high degrees, including risk of life in action."

Crews from the 332nd AEG were uniquely involved in multiple combat operations against enemy Iraqi,

39th Rescue Squadron earns coveted citation for service in Operation Enduring Freedom

Taliban and al Qaeda forces at the same time. During these six months of constant hostilities, 332nd AEG aircrews gallantly flew the longest F-15, F-16, F-18 and A-10 fighter combat sorties in history in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The group's heroic efforts in Afghanistan directly contributed to the Taliban's defeat at Mazar-e Sharif, Konduz, Bagram, Kabul and Tora Bora. These aircraft were the theater commander's weapons of choice for time critical targeting.

During Operation Anaconda, 332nd Airmen boldly provided "dangerously close" close air support to the Special Forces troops trapped on "Robert's Ridge" and enabled them to defeat the enemy. In an extraordinary feat of airpower, A-10s launched from Kuwait to join the fight in Afghanistan with just twelve hours notice, and effectively repulsed attacks against coalition ground forces. On one such occasion they decimated an enemy counterattack of more than 200 troops.

Using 39th Rescue Squadron HC-130s, the 332nd deployed an A-10 detachment to Pakistan within 24 hours of initial notification and provided superb close air support and forward air controller support for the remaining ten days of Operation

Anaconda. This 332nd detachment later moved to Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan where it provided critical support to joint forces in Afghanistan until April 15, 2002. During this period, the 332nd flew more than 1100 sorties and hit over 750 targets in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, while simultaneously supporting Operation Southern Watch over Iraq with F-16, F-15E, A-10, F/A-18, HH-60G, and HC-130 aircraft.

The incredible valor displayed by the 332nd resulted in the award of 5 Silver Stars, 77 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 20 Bronze Star Medals, and over 200 Air Medals.

"We are very proud to have been a part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group during such a critical time" said Maj. Robert Cooke, who served as an HC-130 aircraft commander in theater. "We want to get the word out to all of the members who were involved at the time to make sure the award is added to their record," he continued.

Airmen from the 920th Rescue Wing continued to be a part of the 332nd and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom till September 2003. While in Iraq, crews from the 920th were credited with saving 26 lives, more than any other rescue unit in the Air Force.



Deployed members of the 39th Rescue Squadron with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group, earned the prestigious Gallant Unit Award.

High speed in uniform and out on the track

By Master Sgt. Ray Padgett
Rescue Wing Public Affairs

It's about 120 degrees sitting on the grid as Capt. Gregory Lowdermilk, combat rescue officer with the 920th Operations Support Flight, pulls on his gloves, checks his communications system and adjusts his helmet visor. Captain Lowdermilk has started many pararescue missions in far away places in this manner, but today he will be rounding the curves of a racetrack at speeds up to 130 miles per hour.

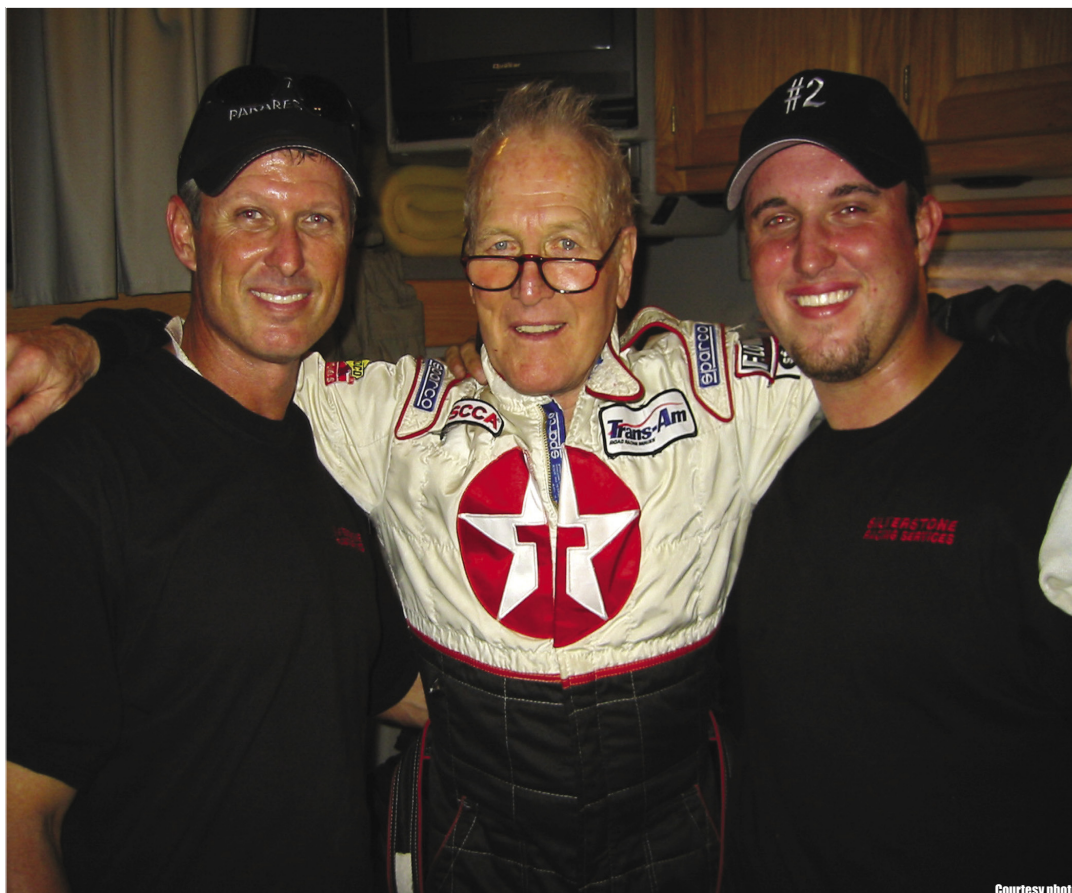
Captain Lowdermilk is a driver of the number 83 car in the U.S. Endurance Racing Association. He got involved in racing in 1990 at a track in nearby Sebring, Fla. driving Porsches.

His current car is a modified 1990 Mazda Miata. "No, it's not street legal, but it is decked out with a full roll-cage, window safety nets, fire suppression system, big time safety stuff," he said.

With up to 110 cars in a race, the safety gear sometimes gets a workout. Although the captain has not been in a major wreck, "thank goodness fenders are cheap," he joked.

When asked how his pararescue experience helps him on the racetrack, Captain Lowdermilk said the situational awareness transfers right over to racing.

"Being able to concentrate in a stressful



Courtesy photo

Capt. Greg Lowdermilk, 920th Operations Support Flight (left), Paul Newman, and Geoff, Captain Lowdermilk's son pose together for a photo. Captain Lowdermilk worked as a racing crewmember with Mr. Newman in 2004.

situation, and the strong sense of teamwork are integral to racing. It's not a sport you can do by yourself," he said.

Also the physical conditioning of the pararescue program is a huge advantage in the endurance races that sometimes lasts up to six

hours.

Captain Lowdermilk is also the only non full-time, professional racecar driver at the Panoz Racing School. He gets to represent the Air Force Reserve Pararescue program to a target audience of "adrenaline junkies" in every class.

Captain

Lowdermilk's love of racing did lead to at least one direct acquisition to the unit. In 2004 he was doing some crew work for Paul Newman's racing team. One of the engineers on race team began to ask about his experience in the Air Force Reserve. That engineer is now a Lieutenant over in the 301st Rescue Squadron.





High Speed



Promotions

3rd Quarter Awards



Senior Master Sgt.

Timothy Bianchi, MXG
Richard Wright, OSF
Michael Ziegler, 308 RQS



Master Sgt.

Paul Eady, MXG
Jerry Gillman, 308 RQS
Mathew Harden, MXG
Anthony James, ASTS
Karen Koviack, OSF
William Nutt, 943 OSF
Farris Riggsbee, MXG
Dahlia Thompson, ASTS



Tech. Sgt.

Cristobal Beltran, MSS
Henri Berthinet, 39 RQS
Melinda Busher, ASTS
Cortney Butler, 301 RQS
David Defile, MSS
Ian Felts, MXG
Romona Harris, LRF
Weston Hufnagel, 308 RQS
Buffy Kooyer, RQW
Victoria Manning, ASTS
Nickolas Rank, MXG
Jason Simos, MXG
George Telesh, 39 RQS
Blanca Torres, OSF
Arik Wilson, ASTS



Staff Sgt.

Brando Ayllon, ASTS
Jeffery Cope, MXG
Jennifer Drake, 39 RQS
Alesandro Figueroa, ASTS
Mario Garcia, 943 MXS
Nicole Hanson, MSS
Kyle Lambert-Cole, MXG
Mark Oneal, MXG
Joseph Piccoli, 306 RQS
Paul Pike, MXG
Todd Portz, 943 MXS
Jaime Villalba, MXG



Senior Airman

Zenobia Brown, ASTS
Bradly Dowell, MXG
Felix Flores, ASTS
Robert Gonzalez, MXG
Rebecca Hogue, MXG
Michael Iskandar, MXG
Brian Kimber, 306 RQS
Jacqueline Meier, MXG
Dina Radumetre, MXG
Catherine Rolon, MXG
Brandon Schlottach, MXG
Gary Smith, MXG
Ashley Trimble, ASTS



Airman 1st Class

Stewart Clifton, MXG
Michael Davies, MXG
Scott Kennedy, MXG
Adam Kowaleski, MXG
Carl Walker, MXG



Senior Master Sgt. Tim Tomasko
Senior NCO of the Quarter



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Sosa
NCO of the Quarter



Senior Airman Greg Smith
Airman of the Quarter



U.S. Air Force Reserve **SNAPSHOT**

A summary of facts and figures about America's Air Force Reserve.

Jul - Sept 2006

- **Vision:** To provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners – flying and fighting as unrivaled wingman
- **Mission:** Deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests – to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace
- **Core Values:** Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do
- **Core Competencies:** Developing Citizen Airmen, Technology-to-Warfighting and Integrating Operations
- **Distinctive Capabilities:** Air and Space Superiority, Global Attack, Rapid Global Mobility, Precision Engagement, Information Superiority, Agile Combat Support

AF Reserve Basics

- **Established:** April 14, 1948
- **Designated MAJCOM (AFRC):** February 17, 1997
- **Selected Reserve Strength:** 74,000
- **Budget:** 3.9B
- **Command Structure:** 36 flying wings/three flying groups, one space group with nine space associated units and 620 mission support units
- **Assigned Aircraft:** 361 PAA

Key Leaders

- **AF Secretary:** [Michael W. Wynne](#)
- **AF Undersecretary:** [Dr. Ronald M. Sega](#)
- **AF Chief of Staff:** [Gen. T. Michael Moseley](#)
- **AF Vice Chief of Staff:** [Gen. John D.W. Corley](#)
- **Chief Master Sgt of the AF:** [CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley](#)
- **Chief of Air Force Reserve; Commander, Air Force Reserve Command:** [Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley](#)
- **AFRC Command Chief:** [CMSgt Jackson A. Winsett](#)

Air Force Reserve Demographics

<u>Totals (Authorized):</u>	<u>Average Age:</u>	<u>Commissioning Sources (%):</u>	<u>Percent Married:</u>
• Traditional: 48,821	• Officers: 42 years	• AFROTC: 31%	• Officers: 76%
• ARTs: 9,943	• Enlisted: 36 years	• OTS: 19%	• Enlisted: 54%
• IMA: 12,946	<u>AF Ethnicity (%)</u>	• Academy: 12%	<u>Gender:</u>
• AGR: 2,290	• Caucasian: 71%	• *Other: 38%	• Male: 76%
• Civilian: 4,217	• Black: 16%		• Female: 24%
<u>Average Total Service:</u>	• Hispanic: 6%		
• Officers: 16 years	• Asian: 2%		
• Enlisted: 14 years	• Other: 5%		

*Includes but not limited to: Academy of Military Sciences, Health Professions Scholarship Program, Air National Guard, Engineer Student Officers

Budget

- **Total FY06 Budget:** \$3,909.5B
- **Ops and Maintenance:** \$2,475.5B
- **Military Personnel:** \$1,285.7B
- **MILCON:** \$91.1M
- **Procurement:** \$57.2M

Reserve Mission Contribution

Personnel Recovery:	23%	Tanker:	23%
Theater Airlift:	21%	Strategic Airlift:	46%
Bomber:	8%	Fighter:	5%
Space:	12%	AWACS:	11%
SOF:	10%	**Training:	14%
UAV:	5%	Intel:	19%
Airborne Fire Fighting:	25%	AOC:	15%
Weather Reconnaissance:	100%	Aerial Spray:	100%
*Flight Inspection Program:	50%	AE:	60%
Security Forces (deployed):	16%		

*Flight Inspection Program percentages refer to the 1st Aviation Standards Flight at Will Rogers AF, OK City. FAA owns the mission and the Reserve provides only the AF contribution to the mission.

**Training reflects T-1, T-6, T-37, AT-38, T-38s aircraft.

AF Reserve Facility Current Footprint

- **Locations:** 75
 - 5 Air Reserve Bases
 - 6 Air Reserve Stations
 - 2 Navy Tenant Locations
 - 2 ANG Tenant Locations
 - 49 AF Tenant Locations
 - 8 Miscellaneous Locations
 - 3 Ranges
- **Facilities:** 2,980 (1,255 Buildings)
 - 12.5M Square Feet
 - Average age 29.6 years

AFRC Retention Rates (Percent)

	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06 (Apr)
Officer	92.0	92.1	94.0	88.7	92.3	91.8	96.0
Enlisted	87.9	88.5	92.8	85.5	84.4	88.0	92.6
Overall	88.8	89.3	93.0	86.2	89.3	89.0	93.4



BRIEF

and to the point...

AFRC PATCH

For anyone worrying about sewing on the AFRC patch, the mandatory wear date has been extended to May 1, 2007.

Currently about one fourth of the needed number of patches has been made available to the field. As patches are issued, Airmen should wear them on their uniforms ASAP.

Extending the wear date will allow additional time for remaining ordered patches to be delivered to the distribution point and disseminated to the field for issue. Take a deep breath.

NEW ABU IS ON TRACK

The new Airman Battle Uniform is moving into production and is on schedule for distribution to deploying Airmen by as early as next summer.

Airmen deploying in the air and space expeditionary cycle 7/8 in May 2007 are scheduled to receive two sets each of the new ABU and the current deployment uniform, the Desert Combat Uniform.

NEW ENLISTED PORTOL

Enlisted Airmen will soon be able to take the reigns of their own career development through a new Web site portal designed to meet all of their career development needs.

My Enlisted Development Plan, or MyEDP, is designed as the Air Force's cradle-to-grave enlisted developmental tool. From their first day of duty to their last, enlisted Airmen will enjoy features of the site designed to provide standardization in every aspect of their career progression.

MyEDP will also provide Airmen critical career field and grade-specific information managed directly by each career field manager.

It will also provide commanders a view of key Airman knowledge, skills and abilities, empowering them to effectively mentor and coach Airmen under their command.

The URL is to be determined.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WEB SITE ON MILITARY RIGHTS

In an effort to make the protection of civil rights laws for servicemembers a priority, the Department of Justice launched a new Web site that explains what rights men and women of the armed forces are entitled to.

The new Justice Department Web site outlines the rights servicemembers have under several laws relating to issues from reemployment to voting. The United States makes promises to its servicemembers.

To find out what those promises are visit www.servicemembers.gov

AEF CENTER REASSIGNED

Effective Aug. 29, the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center was assigned under the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

The reassignment will synergize operations between the two centers and focus on operationalizing personnel by merging permanent authorizations, wartime requirements and assignments under a single commander.

CENTRALIZED RESERVE RETIREMENT APPS

All eligible members of the Air Force Reserve can now submit retirement applications electronically via the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24-hour Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

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.

MEDICAL RECORDS TO GO

ELECTRONIC

Medical personnel throughout the Air Force soon will be using the Department of Defense's global electronic health record system to keep track of patient records.

The Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, known as AHLTA, is the largest system of its kind and is scheduled to go online at the military's 800 clinics and 70 hospitals by the end of December.

RESERVE RECRUITING TOPS ITS GOAL AGAIN

For the sixth year in a row, Air Force Reserve has exceeded its recruiting goal. AFRC Recruiting Service surpassed its goal for the 2006 recruiting year Aug. 31 when it accessed its 8,001st recruit. The number signing up continues to climb.

Plastic... continued from page 2 compared to the joy you will see on the faces of your loved ones when you hand them those expensive presents!"

We all know we would never see anything like this. Unfortunately, there are some folks out there who think like this. If you have ever seen the statistics for over due GTC accounts you've noticed a huge spike around the holiday season in the number of delinquent cards. Even non-rocket scientists can figure out what is going on.

There are other consequences card abusers obviously don't consider. You also incur a personal debt that has lousy terms: 100 percent down and no monthly payments. Many times, individuals who go delinquent on their card payments do so because they spend more than they are reimbursed and don't have the cash to cover the additional expense.

If you overspend and are cash poor when the bill comes due, you again risk disciplinary action for failing to pay your bill on time. You also risk major damage to your credit score if the problem isn't corrected in a timely manner. DON'T DO IT. Don't become a part of that small percentage of people who abuse the card and don't pay their bill on time. The career and personal consequences just aren't worth it.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

GOOD TO GO -- Staff Sgt. Armin Agraviador (left) and Senior Airman Becky Houque, integrated avionics systems specialists, perform home station checks on a C-130 "King" Hercules aircraft.



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathleen Snow

PACK YOUR BAGS -- Tech Sgt. Paul Schultz, para-rescuman with the 308th Rescue Squadron, loads supplies onto a C-130 in preparation for the latest shuttle launch mission.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

ONE SHOT ONE KILL -- Tech. Sgt. Brian Wahlstedt (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Doug Kestranek, both with the 308th Rescue Squadron, work together to safely attach a laser target acquisition device on an M-4 rifle at the 308th Rescue Squadron. This is one of the things they do that others may live.

THESE THINGS WE DO...

Airmen from the 308th Rescue Squadron participated in the filming of a Public Service Announcement that will be used in Pararescuemen recruiting. The PSA be completed this month and will begin airing soon. For more information about the pararescueman program call Master Sgt. Brenda Kartheiser at 321-494-1962

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Robert Graude and Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons



AIR FORCE RESERVE

OUR MISSION. YOUR SAFETY



THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE