

THE PONY EXPRESS

943D Deploys
Into Harm's Way



THE PONY EXPRESS

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2007-2008 UTA Schedule

September 8-9	March 1-2
October 13-14	April 5-6
November 3-4	May 3-4
December 1-2	June 7-8
2008	July 12-13
January 12-13	August 2-3
February 9-10	September 6-7

On The Cover:
Lt. Col. Brett Howard walked with his daughter before he joined 70 other 943d Airmen as they deployed to Afghanistan. Photo by MSgt Shawn David McCowan.

Iconic 305th member cuts loose after six years of sheer excellence

Brooke Steinberg
305 RQS Staff

Editor's Note:
Longtime member of the 305th Rescue Squadron, Brooke Steinberg, said good-bye after more than six years with the unit. She wanted to make sure she said goodbye to everyone, and so her farewell letter was included in this issue of the Pony Express.



943d Family:

The last 6 1/2 years have been the best and worst (personally-speaking) years of my life. I really appreciate those who have always been here to support me.

I honestly felt like a part of a family, and knew that I could count on the unit if I needed anything. You will all be greatly missed

Unfortunately, I feel that it's time for me to look at my future and it is time for me to move on.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who attended my going away luncheon, and thank you for the wonderful going away gifts. I was very touched that I impacted so many people (either good or bad HAHA). It was definitely the best luncheon I have ever attended here at the unit.

For those of you that are deployed,

I feel a loss at not being able to say good-bye to you. At least with those of you who have been gone for the past month, it won't be such a big shock for me not to see you.

I wish you all the best and I thank you all for the support you have given me over the years. When you all get back (should you remember who I am) we will have to have one last good-bye lunch.

Again thank you for everything and I will miss you all.



Medical Flight gets crash course in mass casualty training, help from local Civil Air Patrol



MSgt Shawn David McCowan

943d RQG Public Affairs

More than two dozen members of the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) rolled into Davis-Monthan's "Tent City" Sunday, 2 March, to participate in this year's 943d Aeromedical Flight mass casualty exercise.

For AMDF members, the morning hours were full of standard briefings from various agencies. But a day that started as book-driven diligence quickly turned into a trial-by-fire.

As the afternoon began, a quick lesson in the wear of MOPP (Mission-Oriented Protective Posture) gear soon became a live-action test. Minutes after the arrival of the CAP members, there were bloody, gory and wailing kids just outside a "contaminated" tent city.

For nearly ten years, CAP volunteers have assisted the AMDF with their mass casualty exercise.

Lt. Col. Helena Perez, AMDF commander, says the CAP kids are a big part of the realism in the exercise.

"It seems like every year they get better and better ideas as our injured students. And they really get into their roles. They are an essential part of making this exercise seem as realistic as possible," said Colonel Perez.

Each year a new twist is added to the scenario. This year full MOPP gear added a challenge, as well as an injured student who turned out to be an armed terrorist.

Amid the chaotic symphony of triage, vital readings and critical care, Lt. Col. Sigrid Ahlmark, AMDF nurse, paused to smile at the efforts of both the CAP volunteers and the AMDF staff.

"Isn't this something? I love to see everyone pull together like this," said Colonel Ahlmark.

As the exercise ended, Colonel Perez nodded in approval at the unit's efforts.

"This unit can really shine and I'm proud to be a part of it. They really put their heart into this job, and it shows. Who knows when we'll really need to use these skills somewhere around the world. It's good to know this team can handle serious situations like this. And they'll only get better," said Colonel Perez.



Medical technicians carried in a seemingly endless line of patients during the 943d AMDF mass casualty exercise. (Photo by MSgt Shawn David McCowan)



Lt Col John Barberii and SSgt David Kastning, both members of 943 AMDF, discuss treatment of a patient during the 943d AMDF mass casualty exercise. (Photo by MSgt Shawn David McCowan)



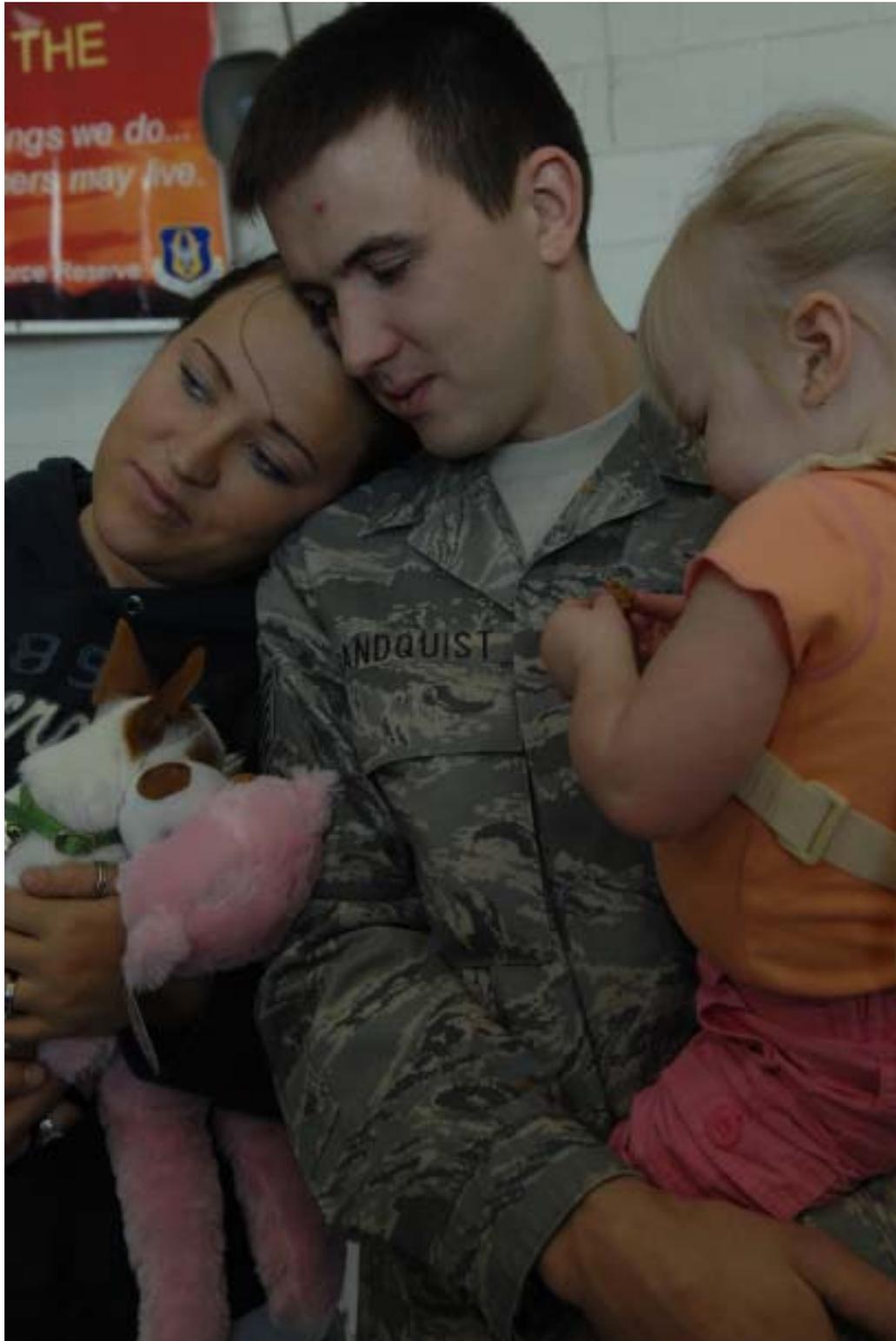
Members of 943 AMDF dealt with heat, full MOPP gear and dozens of patients during their mass casualty exercise. (Photo by MSgt Shawn David McCowan)

943d Airmen deploy again

Nearly 70 husbands,
wives, boyfriends,
girlfriends, mothers
and fathers leave for
Afghanistan



Airmen assigned to the 943rd Rescue Group board a C-5 Galaxy before leaving for a deployment Feb. 28 at Davis-Monthan AFB. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Melissa Copeland)



Tech. Sgt. Dustin Sandquist, 943rd Rescue Group, spends a few minutes with his wife, Jill, and daughter, Jade before leaving for a deployment Feb. 28 at Davis-Monthan AFB. The 943rd is an Air Force Reserve unit located here, and is assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick AFB Fla. The 943rd RQG trains personnel with equipment, to achieve and maintain the capability to perform day/night combat rescue missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christina D. Kinsey)



Master Sgt. Victor Durand, 943rd Rescue Group, gathers equipment to prepare for a deployment Feb. 28 at Davis-Monthan AFB. The 943rd is an Air Force Reserve unit located here, and is assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick AFB Fla. The 943 RQG trains personnel with equipment, to achieve and maintain the capability to perform day/night combat rescue missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christina D. Kinsey)

SSgt. Tim Beckham
355 FW Public Affairs

Nearly 80 members from the 920th Rescue Wing and the 943rd Rescue Group deployed from here Feb. 28 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The team of Reservists, who are deploying to the Middle East, will provide combat search and rescue operations while deployed.

The deploying men and women have been preparing for months for this deployment, but Col. Robert Dunn, 943rd Rescue Group commander, said his Airmen have been training for this kind

of mission throughout their careers.

“These men and women are every bit as thoroughly trained as their active-duty counterparts,” he said. “That means they train to do more in much less time. Their commitment as Citizen Airmen is proven in their selfless, volunteer dedication.

They leave behind their families, their jobs and their friends to protect the freedoms of every American. I’m very proud of each and every one of them.”

Family members, armed with signs, flags and tissues, gathered at the 943rd Maintenance Squadron hangar to say good-bye to their loved ones before they stepped foot on the airplane.

“You get kind of used to it after a while,” said Ronni Curry, girlfriend of Tech. Sgt. Joshua Donnelley, one of the 943rd members who deployed Feb. 28. “It’s just another deployment, another part of his job that he has to do, but he’ll be home soon.”

The deploying Airmen are scheduled to be gone for various durations of time in support of the Global War on Terror, but most will be deployed between three months and one year.

The 943rd has a long history of deployments. The unit, under various titles, has deployed nearly every year since the first Gulf War.

Event	Start Time	End Time	Location	Remarks
Saturday, 4 May 2008				
SIGN IN	0645	0700	Designated Locations	All personnel!
Deployment Briefing	0715	0830	Bldg 1630, rm 162	ALL B Rotators
RQG/CC Staff Mtg & SORTS Briefing	0745	0815	Bldg 1630, CC Staff Room	All Group, Squadron & Flight CC's; SORTS Monitors
PHA	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Those who've completed PHA Questionnaire
Dental	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Member Must Schedule Appointment
Immunizations	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Members who are due
M-16 Deployment	0930	1600	Base Firing Range	Must bring Chem Mask to training, Must have completed the on line course Use of Force & bring certificate, must have a current Lautenberg Form on file
UTM Meeting	0800	1000	Bldg 5426, LRE Conference Room	All UTMs & Alternates
Medical Walk-Ins	0800	1000	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	For Profiles, Medical Issues & Follow Ups (MBR must pick up medical record at Bldg 5426, Rm 106 & hand-carry to clinic).
Top 3 Meeting	1100	1200	Dining Facility	All RQG Senior NCOs
Medical In & Out-Processing	1300	1500	Bldg 5426, Rm 105	Personnel needing to in or out-process; or needing medical administrative support, ie: school requests, etc.
SIGN OUT	1600	1615	Designated Locations	All personnel!
Sunday, 4 May 2008				
SIGN IN	0645	0700	Designated Locations	All personnel!
CDC Testing	0800	1100	Bldg 1750, Rm 211	Space is limited call 228-2227 to schedule
SCB / 3A0 Training	0800	1000	Bldg 1630, CC Conference RM	All assigned 3A0 personnel
Chemical Warfare Refresher	0800	1030	Bldg 5405	Bring Airman's Manual, gas mask; no contacts, no earrings
M-9 Aircrew	0830	1600	Base Firing Range	Bring AF Form 522; must have completed the on line course Use of Force & bring certificate, must have a current Lautenberg Form on file
Chapel Service	1000	1030	Bldg 1750, Rm 211	All are invited
Supervisor Safety Brief	1300	1400	Bldg 1630, Rm 162	New supervisors
SIGN OUT				All personnel!

UTA Schedule

Event	Start Time	End Time	Location	Remarks
Saturday, 7 June 2008				
SIGN IN	0645	0700	Designated Locations	All personnel!
RQG/CC Staff Mtg & SORTS Briefing	0745	0815	Bldg 1630, CC Staff Room	All Group, Squadron & Flight CC's; SORTS Monitors
PHA	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Those who've completed PHA Questionnaire
Dental	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Member Must Schedule Appointment
Immunizations	0800	1100	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	Members who are due
M-16	0830	1600	Base Firing Range	Must bring Chem Mask to training, Must have completed the on line course Use of Force & bring certificate, must have a current Lautenberg Form on file
UTM Meeting	0800	1000	Bldg 5426, LRE Conference Room	All UTMs & Alternates
Medical Walk-Ins	0800	1000	355th Medical Group, Bldg 400 - Clinic	For Profiles, Medical Issues & Follow Ups (MBR must pick up medical record at Bldg 5426, Rm 106 & hand-carry to clinic).
New Comers	0830	1500	Bldg 1630, CC Conference RM	All new personnel who've not attended New Comer's at the 943rd
Top 3 Meeting	1100	1200	Dining Facility	All RQG Senior NCOs
Medical In & Out-Processing	1300	1500	Bldg 5426, Rm 105	Personnel needing to in or out-process; or needing medical administrative support, ie: school requests, etc.
SIGN OUT	1600	1615	Designated Locations	All personnel!
Sunday, 8 June 2008				
SIGN IN	0645	0700	Designated Locations	All personnel!
Fitness Testing	0645	0900	Base Track	
CDC Testing	0800	1100	Bldg 1750, Rm 211	Space is limited call 228-2227 to schedule
SCB / 3A0 Training	0800	1000	Bldg 1630, CC Conference RM	All assigned 3A0 personnel
Chemical Warfare Refresher	0800	1030	Bldg 5405	Bring Airman's Manual, gas mask; no contacts, no earrings
M-9	0830	1600	Base Firing Range	Bring AF Form 522; must have completed the on line course Use of Force & bring certificate, must have a current Lautenberg Form on file
Chapel Service	1000	1030	Bldg 1750, Rm 211	All are invited
SIGN OUT				All personnel!

Get One program gets makeover

Getting nearly 10,000 people to join the ranks of the Air Force Reserve every year is tough work.

Recruiters rely on a variety of tools to successfully accomplish this difficult mission year in and year out, including developing a new Get One program.

Originally started in October 2000, the Get One program relies on Reservists to provide leads on potential recruits.

"We rely on our Reservists to help bring in the caliber of people we need in our ranks," said Maj. Leslie Pratt, chief, Advertising and Information Systems Division, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service. "Get One accounts for more than 10 percent of our accessions."

"What makes it so effective is our Reservists know the general qualifications (for joining the Reserve), and they share their satisfaction and enthusiasm with the people they talk to. When a Get One referral comes our way, a Reservist has already cultivated an interest in the Air Force Reserve."

Despite Get One's success, recruiters are constantly looking for ways to improve the program. With that goal in mind, they've implemented some changes, starting with the name.

The program is now known as Get One Now. And the recruiters, working with their advertising agency, have established a new program Web site (get1now.us).

"The best way to enter a referral is through the Web site," Major Pratt said.

Reservists who are new to the site can click on "Sign Up Now" to open an account. Through this password-protected account, Reservists can enter referral names, check the status of referrals and accessions, and track their awards. Once an account is established, visitors to the site can just click on the "Sign In" link to perform these functions.

The Web site also features an "online chat" capability that allows Reservists to pass referral information on directly to an I²e-recruiter" or have their questions answered.

Major Pratt said the program offers other ways for Reservists to provide referral information. They can e-mail information from the Web site or call toll free 1-877-786-2372 to reach the Air Force Reserve Call Center.

All methods of submitting referral information are available, from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information submitted to the Get One Now program is confidential, Major Pratt



said, and will not be given to any other branch of the military or to any outside vendor.

In another change, AFRC has created a special series of awards, based on the tradition of military coins, for those participating in the Get One Now program. For every referral a Reservist submits, he or she will receive a silver-colored metal coin. Created specifically for this purpose, referral coins are numbered one through 10, to correspond to the number of names submitted, and they may be accumulated over time.

If a referral turns into an accession, the Reservist who submitted the name will get a bronze-colored enameled coin. A second accession merits a silver-colored enameled coin, and a gold-colored coin is given

for a third accession. Reservists achieving a fourth accession get a plaque signed by the AFRC commander and a platinum-colored coin. All accession awards are calculated on a fiscal-year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) basis.

A complete list of all awards, as well as a list of the top winners from previous years, is available on the Web site. "Get One Now is an easy way for Reservists to contribute to the Air Force Reserve and to receive a tangible award in recognition of their efforts," Major Pratt said. "There are intangible benefits of participating in this program, as well.

"First, the person who is recommended can benefit tremendously. This part-time job not only comes with a paycheck and educational benefits, but an opportunity to meet and work with some tremendous people. Second, Reservists benefit by keeping the Reserve strong by recommending people they want to serve alongside with. "Air Force Reserve members make Get One Now great and keep the Air Force Reserve strong." (Courtesy of "Citizen Airman" magazine).

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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One
Now*