

PONY EXPRESS

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

SERVING THE 943RD RESCUE GROUP

AUGUST 1, 2011

Knowledge operators keep the information flowing

By Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Properly handling a variety of information is an essential key to any successful military unit, and the knowledge operations managers with the 943rd Rescue Group here ensure all of the unit guidance and necessary information products get passed on to all Airmen within the group.

The tasking knowledge operators are required to perform within the 943rd RQG ensures the unit is ready for any worldwide contingency operation. They make certain the group is in compliance with Air Force Instruction's and operating procedures.

"We create publications for the 943rd RQG based on AFIs, the office of primary responsibility tailors it to the 943rd RQG and how we do things," said Staff Sgt. Laura Morales, 943rd Mission Support Flight, knowledge operation chief. "We ensure that the OPR is aware of the suspense dates, and we assist with the tracking of the publications process in order to be compliant."

Processing orders for unit member is another important task which ensures mission accomplishment for the group and getting rescue Airmen where they need to go.

"If we all were to up and leave, no one would get paid, and orders wouldn't get processed," said Staff Sgt. Candice Megginson, 943rd MSF knowledge operations technician. "The orders we process impact other missions throughout the world. If we did not do our jobs, no one could deploy."

For Master Sgt. Yolanda Esparza, 943rd Maintenance Squadron, technical order distribution manager, it is inspiring to be involved both at the beginning and end of every mission the 943rd RQG supports.

"The job neither begins nor is finished till the paper work is started or completed," said Sergeant Esparza. "We play an integral part in the process of getting folks out the door to where they need to be by completing the necessary paper work."



Staff Sgt. Candice Megginson, 943rd MSF knowledge operations technician processes orders for 943rd Airmen so the rescue group can perform its mission.

Privacy act information and other sensitive information on unit members is a tasking that knowledge operators don't take lightly, for it is crucial to the lives of many former and current 943rd Airmen.

"Sometimes we get letters from the Veteran's Administration and other government agencies on former or current members requesting needed information, and we distribute that information to the specific offices for processing," said Sergeant Morales.

Another program, they are responsible for is maintaining the unit's share point and portal websites. The goal is to have all knowledge operators within each unit fully trained up in share point so they can upload information onto the website.

"Share point is going to be the future; it's going to be the sole point of information for all units," said Sergeant Morales.

As the hub of information for the 943rd, providing customer service is key in ensuring the flow of information will keep the group always ready to perform its mission.

"I feel like 'no' or 'I don't know' is never an option for us," said Sergeant Morales. "We have to know where to direct people, for our job is to know the right answer to better serve the group's informational needs."



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The Pony Express

943rd RQG Commander
Colonel Harold L. Maxwell

Chief of Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson

Editorial Assistance Team
Capt. Cathleen Snow 920RQG/PA
MSgt. Ruby Zarzyczny 306RQS/CCF
355th FW/PA staff

Contact Information

943rd Rescue Group
Public Affairs Office
5020 E. Arizola St.
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ 85707-3108
Phone: 520-228-5952
DSN: 228-5952
FAX: 520-228-5258
943rqg.pa@dm.af.mil

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FY 2011 UTA Schedule

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5-6 Mar 2011
2-3 Apr 2011
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A tradition of teamwork



By Maj. Michael Williams
943rd Maintenance Squadron commander

The history of our search and rescue profession goes back a long way. The first Air Rescue Service was established on March 13, 1946, based at Washington National Airport. In December 1946, Col. Richard Knight took command and was instructed to build it up or shut it down. He soon became an avid supporter. He implemented plans and programs for the improvement and expansion of air rescue service and its culture. Colonel Knight wrote the rescue code, motto and designed the rescue patch. The patch had a blue sky streaked with a golden ray of hope and on it an angel with his

hands around the world. On the bottom of the insignia the last lines of the code "That Others May Live." A tremendous amount of interesting facts many might not know about search and rescue history can be found on the Web.

Speaking of history and tradition, in our Group I keep hearing "That Others May Live" referred to as only the Pararescue motto. With the information above and over 27 years working in or being associated with Combat Search and Rescue, I can assure you this motto is not exclusive to Pararescue. It applies to all members of the 943rd Rescue Group. Whether you repair aircraft or computers, draw blood or intelligence conclusion, ensure pay or perform DEERs updates, civilian or military, your contribution to this organization ensures the long standing motto "That Others May Live". We all have a position on the team, and it is important to the success of our organization that you play your part and do it well. As the saying goes, we need to operate "like a well oiled machine" to ensure the success of our Aircrew and Guardian Angel members performing the mission for those in need, be it civilian or military. Our collective efforts and cooperation produce a synergistic effect that allows our missions to become successful. So the next time you hear the Motto "That Other May Live", please take a moment to remember how important your contribution to that success is to those who actually perform the mission. Allow yourself to take some ownership of its success and be proud to be a member of Combat Search and Rescue.

Dear Drunk Driver

Commentary by Melissa

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. --
Dear Drunk Driver,

We don't know each other. We never met. That is until our lives literally collided. It was a night/early morning I wish I could forget and, in some ways, have forgotten. I guess there is part of me that also wishes I could remember more.

The night started out great. I was with my sister and a great friend. We did have a good night and surprisingly, I was in a good mood when we got in the car and headed home. On our way home we did stop and get some food, saw another friend and were warned to drive safe. There really isn't much after that I remember until I woke up in the back of the car and people were staring at us. Then I heard my sister screaming. She obviously didn't hear me because she didn't respond.

All I remember is pain after that. The rest I had to be told by friends and family. No one would say, but I knew my friend didn't make it through the accident. I feel guilty because I made it and she did not, especially since she had a young daughter who was going to have to grow up without her now. I just didn't feel right.

There was a part of me that wishes, more than anything, I could go back and switch places with her, that I was the one who didn't make it through the accident. Now, almost 12 years later, I do understand why things ended the way they did. If I hadn't made it, my

husband wouldn't be mine and our children wouldn't exist, but the guilt still hasn't gone away completely.

In the beginning, I didn't feel anything but hatred for you and the people who allowed you to get in the car after all the drinks you consumed that night. Part of me was glad that you, too, didn't make it, that your family was going to have to go through the rest of their lives without you.

After learning and growing, after 12 years of fighting to remember and grateful for my memory loss, I feel sorry for those you loved. I feel sorry for you. I wish I knew for sure how old you were; I just know you were young and didn't really have a chance to live. We were all young. The ones who survived had to grow up a little sooner than we should have, and the ones who lost their lives didn't get to experience the wonderful things there are to experience here.

I want you to know that I have forgiven you for the accident. I may not fully forgive myself yet, but I am getting there. I pray that you have learned a lesson and understand the consequences of your actions, that you can help others with your story. That we all can help someone somewhere not have to live with the physical and mental wounds we have.

I hope you have found peace.

(The author of this commentary wishes to remain anonymous.)

Pony Express retraction

In the July issue of the Pony Express the incorrect individual was indentified in the top photo on the front page, the correct person in the photograph is Master Sgt. Gary Reinhardt, 943rd MXS armament flight chief.

2011 Air Force Marathon

The 15th Annual Air Force Marathon will be held September 17, 2011 at Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio. This year's event will again feature a MAJCOM Challenge with a trophy to be presented at CORONA Fall conference to the command with the most points based on participation and highest male/female finishers in the full and half marathons. More information about the Air Force Marathon and related events is available online at www.usafmarathon.com.

Special Military Exemptions

An Arizona resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a member of a National Guard or Reserve unit, called to active military duty outside of Arizona in support of a worldwide contingency operation of the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for a one-year VLT and registration fee exemption. Visit <http://www.azdot.gov/mvd/MilitaryPersonnelInformation.asp>. The applicant must ensure all other registration requirements are met and submit a completed Special Military Exemption Form 96-0240 at the time of registration.

D-M Thrift Store accepts donations

The D-M Thrift Store accepts donations 24 hours-a-day at the drop-off at the store Thrift Store hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m – 2 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 9 a.m. – noon. If you have any questions, contact the DM Thrift Store at 228-2120.

DM family child care provider opportunities

Do you enjoy working with children? You can earn up to \$500 a week while staying at home by starting your own business with no start up costs, free lending supplies, training and reimbursement for meals served to children through U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program. The Family Child Care is a professional option for stay at home parents who want to continue to work and contribute to the family income while caring for their own children. Qualifications include: Must be 18 years of age, be able to speak, read, understand and write English and have a High School Diploma or GED.

To meet the needs of our DM military families, we are currently looking for FCC applicants willing to accommodate infants, for swing /and mid shifts, as well as special needs.

For more information, contact the DM FCC office at 228-2201.

Social Security absent on DOD ID cards

Effective, June 1, 2011, the SPA will issues ID cards with no Social Security numbers on them.

FREE welcome home banners

The purpose of Operation Welcome Home is to recognize and thank individual military personnel for their service during a deployment. One FREE 2'h x 4'w banner may be requested. Please use the following link, then click on Operation Welcome Home. The sign typically takes 7-10 days. <http://www.westsidesigns.com> This is a great way to show your support for spouse/friend or co-worker!

Get 1 now program

Know anyone that is interested in joining the Air Force Reserve? The Get One Now program offers a selection of awards when a person you refer joins the Air Force Reserve. For more information on the program, visit www.get1now.us or call 877-786-2372.

943rd Education Office

The Education and Training Office is here to assist our members with any questions or concerns they have in regards to educational benefits, such as Post 9/11, Montgomery GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill Select Reserve, Reserve Educational Assistance, and Tuition Assistance.

Summer reading program

The Base Library will be hosting a summer reading program. The program will have special activities. For more information, contact the library at 228-4381.

Touch down! 920th RQS supports final shuttle mission

By Capt. Cathleen Snow
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- As the sun rose over the Atlantic Ocean this morning, it shed light on a monumental occasion. The final landing of the Space Shuttle Atlantis and the final time Air Force Reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing from nearby Patrick Air Force Base will perform their duties as guardians of the astronauts.

Atlantis touched down on the Shuttle Landing Facility's Runway 15 at 5:57 a.m. EDT on July 21. After 200 orbits around Earth and a journey of 5,284,862 miles, the landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center here brought America's manned space program to a close after 30 years of space shuttle flights.

As a network of rescue responders, Rescue Wing Airmen have been the insurance policy ready to perform the world's largest search and rescue mission if called upon, during the astronauts' daring entries and exits into space.

It was nice knowing they were there as our security blanket all along said NASA astronaut Richard R. Arnold II.

For the Airmen, "its bittersweet," said Col. Robert Ament, 920th RWQ Vice Commander.

"Our training that we've done, our equipment we provided for the space shuttle, the specific equipment that we built ourselves, that we developed within the 920th, that we used to rescue astronauts, is significant, and it was a huge contribution to the overall space effort."

Team Rescue spent the previous day removing auxiliary fuel tanks from the HH-60G

Pave Hawk helicopter to make room for the NASA medicine and medical gear used to treat the astronauts in the event of a mishap.

Pave Hawk aviators and Guardian Angel Airmen showed up at 2 a.m. here to get ready for the final shuttle descent.

Overall 40 ground and aircrew personnel launched their aircraft shortly thereafter to clear the Eastern Range and preposition close to where the shuttle would touch down for the last time.

The Eastern Range is the 1,000 square mile of area beneath the shuttle launch path. Airmen spend several hours prior to the shuttle's return to ensure no one is in harm's way.

"The 920th Rescue Wing has stood by as search and rescue support for the manned space program since the early 60s, participating in one way or another," said Colonel Ament. Mission success!

"This isn't the end of the space mission. We still have the atlas and delta rockets, and space payload mission. Man will go back in space, and we will need the continued support of the rescue units," said Col. John Madura, NASA Weather Official and former 45th Space Wing Weather Commander.



Two Air Force Reserve HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, pilots and crew fly over the Space Shuttle Atlantis, July 21, 2011, at the Kennedy Space Center landing strip. Rescue reservists from the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., have been present since the start of the shuttle mission to clear the range and stand by in the event of a mishap.

Rocket launches will continue and the reservists remain gainfully employed clearing the 1,000 square miles of Atlantic Ocean, not to mention the high-tempo of deployments overseas and the continuous maintenance of the aircraft; but something will now forever be missing.

Team Rescue will continue to focus more on its primary mission.

"Our number one priority has to be to maintain mission-ready status for all personnel recovery forces," Ament said.

With their highly trained rescue personnel, the 920th RQW stands ready to support the next era of manned spaceflight, willing to meet the needs of NASA's unique, evolving missions.

943rd MSF Airmen attention to detail



Senior Master Sergeant Gary Dykeman, Non-commissioned officer in charge of plans and programs with the 943rd MSF salutes Maj. Arthur Tigney, 943rd MSF commander prior to beginning the open ranks inspection Sunday, July 10. The 943rd MSF conducted a service dress blues open ranks inspection during the July Unit Training Assembly weekend. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)



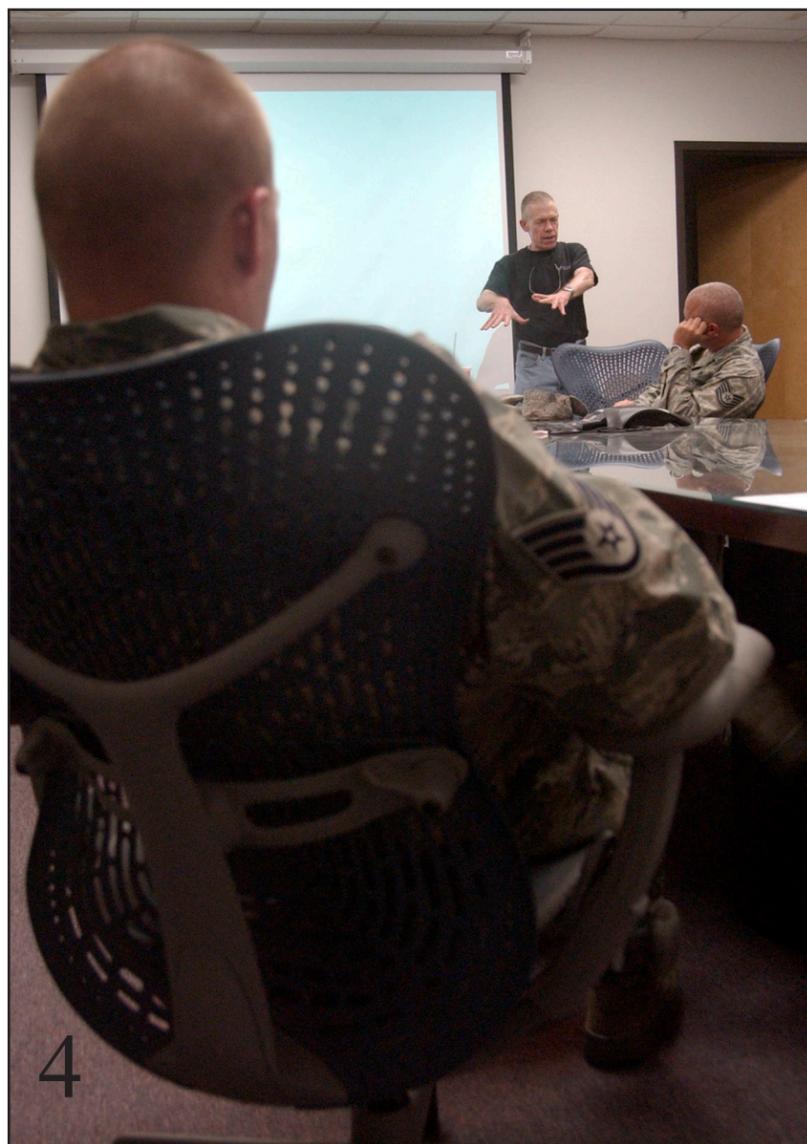
Maj. Arthur Tigney, 943rd Mission Support Flight commander inspects Airmen of the 943rd MSF during an open ranks inspection which was conducted during the July Unit Training Assembly Weekend Sunday, July 10. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.- The 943rd Mission Support Flight conducted a open ranks service dress blues inspection on Sunday, July 10 during the July Unit Training Assembly weekend. Maj. Arthur Tigney, 943rd MSF commander, conducted the inspection under the pavilion next to the 943rd Rescue Group Headquarters building, and the inspection gave him the opportunity to interact with Airmen of the flight. The mission of the 943rd MSF is to provide customer support to 943rd RQG personnel and their dependents, which included a wide range of administrative functions. The flight also provides education and training services, military equal opportunity, and man power support.



Around the Group



1. Tech. Sgt. Julie Stempkowski, knowledge operations manager with the 943rd Mission Support Flight, prepares meat for cooking during the Super 6 breakfast burrito fundraiser, Sunday July 10. The Super 6 held a breakfast burrito fundraiser for the 943rd RQG Christmas Party. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

2. Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Devine, 306th Rescue Squadron aircrew flight equipment maintainer, assembles breakfast burritos during the Super 6 breakfast burrito fundraiser, July 10. The funds from the sale will go toward the 943rd RQG Christmas Party. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

3. Airmen of the 943rd Rescue Group prepare to do the push up portion of the physical fitness test in side of the 943rd Maintenance Squadron hangar during the early morning hours of the July Unit Training Assembly weekend, Sunday, July 10. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

4. Mr. Guy Leahy, exercise physiologist from the Health and Wellness Center, briefs 943rd Rescue Group Airmen on the importance of proper exercise technique and training during a healthy living class, July 10. Mr. Leahy also briefed 943rd RQG Airmen of the various programs that are offered at the HAWC to improve overall health and fitness. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

5. 943rd Rescue Group pilots and pararescue were prepared to launch to assist with a local rescue mission at Sierra Vista, Ariz. Sunday, July 10. Last month the town had been devastated by a large forest fire and the resulting monsoon rains created mud slide conditions in the town. The 943rd RQG was called in by the Cochise County Sheriff to assist in the rescue of possible trapped individuals. At the last minute, the mission was called off due to a 100 percent accountability of possible trapped individuals. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)



Around the Group



1. Mr. Osvaldo Magallanes, 943rd Maintenance Squadron engine manager, installs electrical wires to a T-701C helicopter engine at the Kirtland Air Force Base Engine Test Cell, July 21. The Kirtland test cell is the center for all HH-60G T-701C engines for western based U.S. Pave Hawk units. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Master Sgt. Gregory Gaunt)

2. 943rd Rescue Group senior enlisted leaders and First Sergeants present the Diamond Sharp Award to Tech. Sgt. Heather Benedict, medical technician with the 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron during the July Unit Training Assembly Weekend. The Diamond Sharp award program allows unit First Sergeants to recognize their personnel for outstanding appearance and superb performance. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

3. Lt. Col. John Beatty, 943rd Rescue Group deputy commander, presents an appreciation award to Ms. Gail Johnson during her retirement ceremony, July 15. Ms. Johnson retired from the 943rd Financial Management office after 30 years of federal civil service. She started her civil service career as a cashier at the Davis Monthan Commissary. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

4. Master Sgt. Michele Goodwin, medical technician with the 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron demonstrated the proper Cardiopulmonary resuscitation technique to Master Sgt. Michael Wilson, first sergeant for the 943rd AMDS, during a CPR training session, July 9. The class provided 943rd AMDS Airmen an opportunity to stay current on proper CPR procedures. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

5. Tech. Sgt. Joseph Piccoli, Pararescue with the 305th Rescue Squadron, explains how to accurately calculate a decent into a drop zone to a group of at risk teenagers during a tour the 943rd Rescue Group. The At Risk Youth Tour Program is part of the Tucson Police Department gang outreach program. Senior Master Sgt. William, a Tucson Police Officer, brought the teenagers to Davis Monthan Air Force Base so they could experience all of the different missions Airmen perform. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)



943rd Airmen excellent PT scores

The following Airmen in front of Pony 1-2 from the 943rd Rescue Group scored outstanding or excellent on their PT test in the past year: Col. Rich Dinsdale, 943rd AMDS, Lt. Col. Evan Kapp, 943rd AMDS, Lt. Col. John Barberii, 943rd AMDS, Capt. Gabriel Luna, 943rd AMDS, Master Sgt. Joe Savoia, 943rd AMDS, Maj. William Pashley, 943rd AMDS, Senior Airman John Zerilli 943rd AMDS, Tech. Sgt. Andrea Bribiesca 943rd AMDS, Tech. Sgt. Sasan Oskouee, 943rd AMDS, Tech. Sgt. Michael Wilson, 943rd AMDS, Lt. Col. Derek Schop, 943rd AMDS, Staff Sgt. Robert Kachadoorian 943rd AMDS, Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Montminy 306th RQS, Staff Sgt. George Celaya 306th RQS/AFE, Master Sgt. Chad Lapora 943rd AMDS, Master Sgt. Luis Alvarez, 943rd RQG, Master Sgt. Richard McNeeley, 305th RQS.

943rd Rescue Group Airmen not pictured:

306th Rescue Squadron: Staff Sgt. David Adams, Staff Sgt. Richard Aldridge, Tech. Sgt. Diana Alfonso, Capt. Joshua Appel, Capt. Vincent Archer, Master Sgt. Maurice Bedard, Staff Sgt. Isaac Blanton, Staff Sgt. Alan Brumfield, Master Sgt. William Campbell, Staff Sgt. Marcel Delavara, Airman 1st Class Mark Driggers, Staff Sgt. Richard Dunn, Tech. Sgt. Mervin Fernandez, Senior Airman William Forsyth, Senior Airman William Forsyth, Senior Airman Scott Fremgen, Airman 1st Class Matthew Gaddy, Staff Sgt. Patrick Gault, Staff Sgt. Ryan Gilbert, Tech. Sgt. David Glass, Tech. Sgt. Rafael Gonzalez, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Hamilton, Staff Sgt. Zachary Hill, Airman 1st Class Jason Hill, Airman 1st Class Jason Hughes, Senior Airman Eric Humphrey, Staff Sgt. Robert Hutchison, Staff Sgt. Michael Inglis, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Jones, Staff Sgt. Lance Kleese, Staff Sgt. Kevin Kroll, Airman Ethan Manuel, Master Sgt. Sean McBride, Staff Sgt. Michael McCartin, Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas McCaskill, Maj. Ryan Montanez, Master Sgt. Ryan Morris, Airman 1st Class Ryan Morris, Airman 1st Class Kelin Munson, 2nd Lt. James Owens, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Piccoli, Staff Sgt. Alan Plante, Senior Airman Alan Prince, Tech. Sgt. Dustin Sandquist, Tech. Sgt. David Schlesinger, Staff Sgt. Isaac Shapiro, Airman 1st Class Jonathan Shreve, Staff Sgt. Kyle Siegel, Master Sgt. Howard Smith, Airman 1st Class Nicole Snellings, Staff Sgt. Richard Soforo, 1st Lt. Isaiah Staley, Tech. Sgt. Richard Stevens, Senior Airman Jason Sweet, Staff Sgt. Maurice Sweet, Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Tellsworth, Senior Master Sgt. Jake Thompson, Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny.

304th Rescue Squadron: Tech. Sgt. Demian Abel, Senior Airman Joshua Amos, Master Sgt. Kevin Baum, Maj. Christopher Bernard, Master Sgt. Josiah Blanton, Master Sgt. Jason Blettenberg, Master Sgt. Derrick Brooks, Staff Sgt. Ross Bucklew, Master Sgt. Antonello Burke, Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Canfield, Airman 1st Class Christian Carnett, Tech. Sgt. Evangeline Dyer, Tech. Sgt. Jason Dykstra, Senior Airman Garrett Erickson, Master Sgt. Aaron Finley, Airman 1st Class Daniel Fowl, Tech. Sgt. Simon Friedman, Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Gesualdo, Maj. John Graver, Tech. Sgt. Seven Green, Staff Sgt. Daryl Groom, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harrington, Tech. Sgt. Ian Jamieson, Staff Sgt. Carl Jenson, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Johnston, Staff Sgt. Roxanne Keeney, Tech. Sgt. Bobbi Kennedy, Airman Christopher Kimberling, Staff Sgt. Scott Kimberling, Staff Sgt. Christiana Kisskeys, Staff Sgt. Bradley Kozisek, Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kuchabsky, Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Lum, Tech. Sgt. Joel Mack, Airman 1st Class Michael Maginn, Capt. Niul Manske, Staff Sgt. Lucas Martin, Tech. Sgt. Michael McHugh, Staff Sgt. Thomas Meacham, Airman 1st Class John Mellencamp, Master Sgt. John Messenger, Airman 1st Class Quinn Murray, Tech. Sgt. Brian Nelson, Capt. Quintin Nelson, Tech. Sgt. Richard Oberstar, Tech. Sgt. Khristian Osorio, Lt. Col. John Page, Master Sgt. Edward Peters, Staff Sgt. Dewayne Pittman, Senior Airman Todd Plocher, Tech. Sgt. Glenn Plunkett, Staff Sgt. Brandon Prest, Airman 1st Class Michael Raedel, Airman 1st Class Scott Raedel, Master Sgt. Troy Rawlins, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Rawlins, Tech. Sgt. Kevin Reeves, Lt. Col. Brett Rota, Tech. Sgt. Nathan Ruddell, Senior Airman Joshua Rutledge, Staff Sgt. Christopher Sobel, Airman 1st Class Josiah Stomstad, Tech. Sgt. Willis Strouse, Staff Sgt. Jason Summers, 2nd Lt. Josua Swartz, Capt. William Thier, Tech. Sgt. Adam Tingey, Airman 1st Class Timothy Traudt, Staff Sgt. Matthew Trevino, Staff Sgt. Philip Vanpeursesem, Staff Sgt. Randy Watts, Senior Master Sgt. Seven Wick

305th Rescue Squadron: Master Sgt. David Deschamps, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Donnelley, Senior Master Sgt. Michael Flake, Staff Sgt. Charles Freeman, Maj. Nathan Horner, Lt. Col. Paul Howard, Master Sgt. Daniel Juen, Maj. Christopher Kieninger, Tech. Sgt. Dean Loose, Tech. Sgt. Deon Madsen, Lt. Col. Kevin Merrill, Maj. Andrew Meshel, Tech. Sgt. Esmat Sabbagh, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Truesdell, Master Sgt. Rory Vannoy, Tech. Sgt. Jamickael Yanez, 2nd Lt. Justin Zucconi

943rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron: Lt. Col. Sigrid Ahlmark, Lt. Col. Jackie Federicolopez, Maj. William Gitchell, Lt. Col. David Haymore, Staff Sgt. Margo Kraushaar, Senior Airman Sarah Li, Staff Sgt. Jacob Monzingo, Lt. Col. Ramonito Panal, Capt. Robert Parks, Lt. Col. Eugene Shusterman, Lt. Col. Conley Titus

943rd Mission Support Flight: Tech. Sgt. Michael Blaker, Staff Sgt. Patricia Jenkins, Tech. Sgt. Rhonda Killingsworth-Lett, Senior Airman Ryne Meador, Staff Sgt. Victor Otero, Airman Basic Ryan Prinsen, Tech. Sgt. Russell Robertson, Senior Airman Perla Tapia

943rd Mission Support Flight: Staff Sgt. Angelita Diaz, Capt. David Gonzales,

943rd Rescue Group: Lt. Col. Paul Anderson, Lt. Col. Paul Beatty, Senior Master Sgt. Theresa Davis, Capt. Kevin Deibler, Col. Harold Maxwell, Senior Airman Allen Richmond, Maj. Mark Ross, Capt. Adam Selvey, Staff Sgt. John Tinglett

Rescue Group civilian employee retires after 30 years of civil service

By Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Her journey began as a cashier at the commissary here, and it ended with a small gathering of family, friends and co-workers, July 15 to celebrate 30 years of memories and accomplishments in her civil service career.

Ms. Gail Johnson, a budget analysis with the 943rd Financial Management Office, told funny stories and reminisced of fond memories of her time here. She also shared her passion for providing exceptional customer service to Airmen and their families.

“I really like working with people and helping them,” said Johnson. “Getting things fixed that are not right and getting it straight.”

She was down in to the world of finance because of her mastery of numbers and ensuring pay was delivered on time.

“I’ve always had an interest in numbers. I was better at that than anything else,” she said. “I must have passed of my numeric skills off to my daughter because she is now a CPA.”

Even though, she has worked with other units on base, she was always drawn back to the Reserve rescue mission.

“I started over here in 1986 with the 71st Special Operations Squadron, and I moved to a few places on base after I started here,” said the numbers guru. “I came back and I always wanted to come back I like working with Air Force Reserve Command.”

She felt that AFRC had the same belief as her in taking care of their Airmen.

“The Headquarters and the higher ups work with the people down in the field to solve problems they understand what Airmen in the field are going through, and they work with you,” said Johnson.

During her time with the 943rd Rescue Group, she made sure that all personnel were taken care of because the mission demanded it.

“I think we do a very important mission and to support Pararescue and what they do is very important because they save lives and that is their mission,” said Johnson. “In order to do that people need to be happy with other parts of



Lt. Col. John Beatty, 943rd Rescue Group deputy commander, presents an appreciation award to Ms. Gail Johnson and her husband Mr. Brandon Johnson during her retirement ceremony, July 15. Ms. Johnson retired from the 943rd Financial Management office after 30 years of federal civil service. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

their lives, pay and family stuff.”

Her fondest and saddest memory during her time here was the tragic crash of Pony 1-2. “It was a really sad memory; they were neat people and we lost some good ones,” she said.

Now that she has completed her 30 years of civil service, she and her husband plan

to hit the road and travel the U.S. and possibly Europe.

“We will be traveling a lot, however Tucson will always be our home, we are going to see most of U.S. and hopefully we will get a change to go to Europe,” said Johnson. “I hope to get to Oktoberfest in Germany one day.”

943 RQG Finance Corner

How can you help our group manage our budget? Orders for pay should be turned in No Later Than five workdays after the end date of the order. You can print your order from AROWS-R, both sides. You must attach all amendments to the original order. Certifying officials should ensure the members’ dates in blocks 40 match blocks 13 and 14 reporting and release dates on the order prior to certifying. If it doesn’t match, an amendment may be required prior to submitting to the pay office. Also amendments to extend your orders must be submitted to the Reserve Pay Office to continue your pay entitlements.

Traditional Reservists and ARTs can now certify their completed short tour (less than 30 days) orders electronically in AROWS-R. For ARTs, there is an additional electronic approval by the timekeeper. The supervisor will receive an e-mail with the link. They have to click on the link in the e-mail to electronically certify that order. The payout for the electronic

certified orders still depends on the pay cycle dates.

AF Fm 40As (UTA reschedule or RMPs), should be turned in to the UTAPSweb monitors within 3 days after duty performed for input into UTAPSweb.

Travel Vouchers: Members are required to file their travel vouchers with 355th CPTS (Base Finance) NLT 5 days after the end date of the order. Filing right away allows the Group to use any available funding prior to September 30, 2011

AROWS-R <https://arowsr.afrc.af.mil/arows-r/> (all members have access)

GOING TDY soon? Pull out your GTC at least two weeks prior and check the expiration date. If it’s expired contact 943 RQG GTC APC: Ms. Gloria Sturm, 943 RQG/FM, Chief Master Sgt. James Eddings 304 RQS/CEM or Maj. Sheralee Gardner 304 RQS/LG.

School or TDY orders more than 30 days: Members have to out-process the SPA

and the RPO prior to attending a school or going TDY more than 30 days and in-process upon return from TDY.

It’s your pay! Check your LES thoroughly, read comments on the bottom. If you think you’re entitled to something and you haven’t received it, notify the 943 RQG/FM office immediately.

LEAVE info on LES: The use/lose days is the total days of leave accrued through the end date of your order.

Accrued Leave: If members do not use their accrued leave, they must submit a memo to the RPO requesting their leave days to be sold.

MYPAY PIN RESETS: MYPAY Pin reset, visit 943 RQG FM office, see Ms. Gloria Sturm. Please call her before you come, 228-5951. You have to show your CAC before she can reset your MYPAY Pin, it’s a security requirement. The GSU 304th Rescue Squadron personnel can e-mail or call her for a reset

Balancing Reserve force discussed at Commander and Spouse Forum

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Lewis
459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. -- Air Force Reserve wing commanders and their spouses attended the annual Air Force Reserve Commander and Spouse forum here July 6-8 to gain increased awareness of the needs of Citizen Airmen and their families.

Attendees engaged with Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, and took part in discussions on topics including military benefits, military community and family policy. Attendees also received a Warrior briefing from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Airmen, who provided personal stories from the field.

"At each forum we try to develop relevant topics, through feedback, geared toward helping Air Force Reserve spouses," said Dee Stenner, wife of General Stenner.

Mrs. Stenner said hearing things like the Warrior briefing makes the jobs of Air Force spouses more important, especially with the love and support they give to servicemembers.

"We have a great group of caring spouses here trying to make things better for those coming behind us," she said.

During the forum, spouses visited Capitol Hill and met with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers who serves on the House Armed Services Committee and is also married to a retired U.S. Navy commander. McMorris Rodgers is also a co-chair of the Congressional Military Families Caucus.

"We recognize that when a servicemember joins the military, it's not just a job, but a family commitment to our country," she said. "The caucus also recognizes that the National Guard and Reserve have more challenges, especially with re-integrating into civilian life after deployments. We're focused now on putting a microphone in front of families and connecting them with leaders at the highest levels."

While the spouses met with the congresswoman and listened to military briefings, wing commanders were also engaged in separate discussions on issues facing their organizations and the Reserve.

"I thought the forum was an excellent opportunity to coordinate strategic-level policy with command leadership as well as my counterparts at other wings," said Col. Russell Muncy, 459th Air Refueling Wing commander.

Colonel Muncy also recognized the importance of having spouses participate in the forum and said it was a great opportunity for them to hear more about military programs and to network.

In his closing remarks, General Stenner summarized the topics covered over the three-day gathering. He stressed the importance of utilizing resources from the forum to help balance the Reserve's "three-legged stool" concept of family, civilian employer and the unit. He also said a status report will be provided to the commanders with an update on the issues brought up during the forum and at the senior leader conference held earlier this year.

"During the forum we heard about



WASHINGTON -- Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., Air Force Reserve Command commander, provides closing remarks to commanders and spouses during a forum here July 9, 2011. This year's Air Force Reserve Commander and Spouse Forum, held July 6-9, provided an opportunity for wing leaders and their spouses to engage in discussions with different organizations about military issues and gain information on new programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Steve Lewis)

all the different ways to balance the Reserve component resource, which is a huge part of our national defense," General Stenner said. "We can use this information to assist us, and while situations are different at every location, know that resources are available for any circumstance."

Air Force releases updated dress and appearance instructions

By Eric M. Grill
Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Air Force's instruction on dress and personal appearance recently received an appearance upgrade with the release of the updated instruction July 18.

Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, received the facelift after several years of interim updates as uniform items were introduced and phased out.

The last revision to the AFI was in 2006, prior to the release of the Airman Battle Uniform, which replaces the Battle Dress Uniform and Desert Camouflage Uniform Nov. 1, 2011.

Most of the changes to the AFI are more about mechanics and clarification than new policy, said Ruth Ewalt, the Air Force Uniform Programs and Policies chief at the Air Staff. They are intended to make the AFI more user-friendly.

"The changes are a result of Airmen in the field requesting clarification, leadership approving more specific policy, and the need to integrate information from the 98th virtual uniform board and other wear policy approved since 2006," Ewalt said. "We added the ABU, green fleece, and physical fitness uniform information not in the previous AFI and corrected instances of conflicting information."

For clarity and ease of reading, the chapters were rearranged and sections were made inclusive to eliminate turning back and forth to configure a single uniform, she said. The difference in the old and new AFI is that

the tables are now integrated into the text. Each uniform has its own section, starting with the most formal through the utility, PT, and distinctive uniforms.

One thing Airmen might notice is the amount of pictures incorporated into the revised AFI.

"Individuals learn and retain information differently," Ewalt said. "For some, a photo is a better tool than volumes of text or audio. We wanted to make this AFI as 'user-friendly' as possible. It covers every Airman -- from the first-day recruit in Basic Military Training to the 30-plus-year career Airman."

Sections are also inclusive, listing all items that may and must be worn with each particular uniform with the exception of outer garments which are covered in their own section.

The first three chapters cover the basic philosophy, appropriate circumstances to wear uniform items, how and where to purchase them, roles and responsibilities, and grooming and appearance standards.

Chapters four through seven cover uniforms worn and maintained by all Air Force members: dress, utility, and physical training uniforms. Chapters four and five include the dress and utility uniforms. Chapter six explains outer garments, headgear, rank insignia and accessories, and chapter seven covers the physical training uniform.

The remaining chapters "customize" the uniforms of unique populations and discuss badges, awards and decorations unique to individual Airmen.

The final chapter contains instructions for recommending changes to dress and personal appearance policy or uniform designs.

The revised AFI also added a tattoo measurement tool to standardize the process for Airmen and commanders to determine if a tattoo meets standards.

"There is also a form to document tattoos that are borderline excessive or require a commander-approved waiver," Ewalt said. "The policy regarding what constitutes an excessive tattoo has not changed. The standard is still not more than 25 percent of the exposed body part."

The revision involved input from individuals of all ranks and components of the Air Force, including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members.

"This three-year effort included Airmen from all walks of Air Force life, ... (including military) training instructors, recruits, recruiters, first sergeants and Air Force leadership from all levels, professional military education instructors, functional communities, and support organizations to name a few," Ewalt said. "This Air Force instruction was influenced by a huge population of Air Force service members because it impacts the total force."

For online dress and appearance information, go to the dress and appearance webpage on the Air Force Personnel Center's website at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp>.

For more information about personnel issues, visit the Air Force personnel services website at <https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil>

943rd fit attitude

"Staying in shape starts with a healthy diet combined with a regular workout. I believe in shocking the body with different physical activities to maintain a high stamina. Physical fitness is the greatest mind game there is, if you can trick your mind to accomplish the results you want you will achieve them."

Tech. Sgt. Andrea Bribiesca, 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, health service management.

"Fitness has become a way of life for me. The military played a huge part with me becoming more involved in fitness; however, I have come to thoroughly enjoy it. I take advantage of the base facilities as much as possible. I attend the Get Fit/Stay Fit class on base three times a week. I frequently attend the base Extreme Circuit class on Tuesday and Thursday. I recently started attending the base Zumba class on Thursday's. I use to despise running, so I would only do to prepare for my PT test however within the last year I decided to do more of it. I've ran two half marathons. That has motivated me to incorporate running into my fitness regimen."

Tech. Sgt. Rhonda Killingsworth-Lett, 943rd Mission Support Flight, logistics supply manager.

"I set up a plan, find out how I can achieve it and execute it. I take fitness as a challenge, I workout six times a week after a hard work out the feeling of accomplishment is more satisfying then the pain. Stay motivated!!!"

Senior Airman Perla Tapia, 920th Force Support Squadron detachment, personnel specialist.

"I try to work out all year long, three times a week. I watch what I eat, and try to keep myself at a good running weight, which for me is in the mid 170 pounds. I am five feet, ten inches."

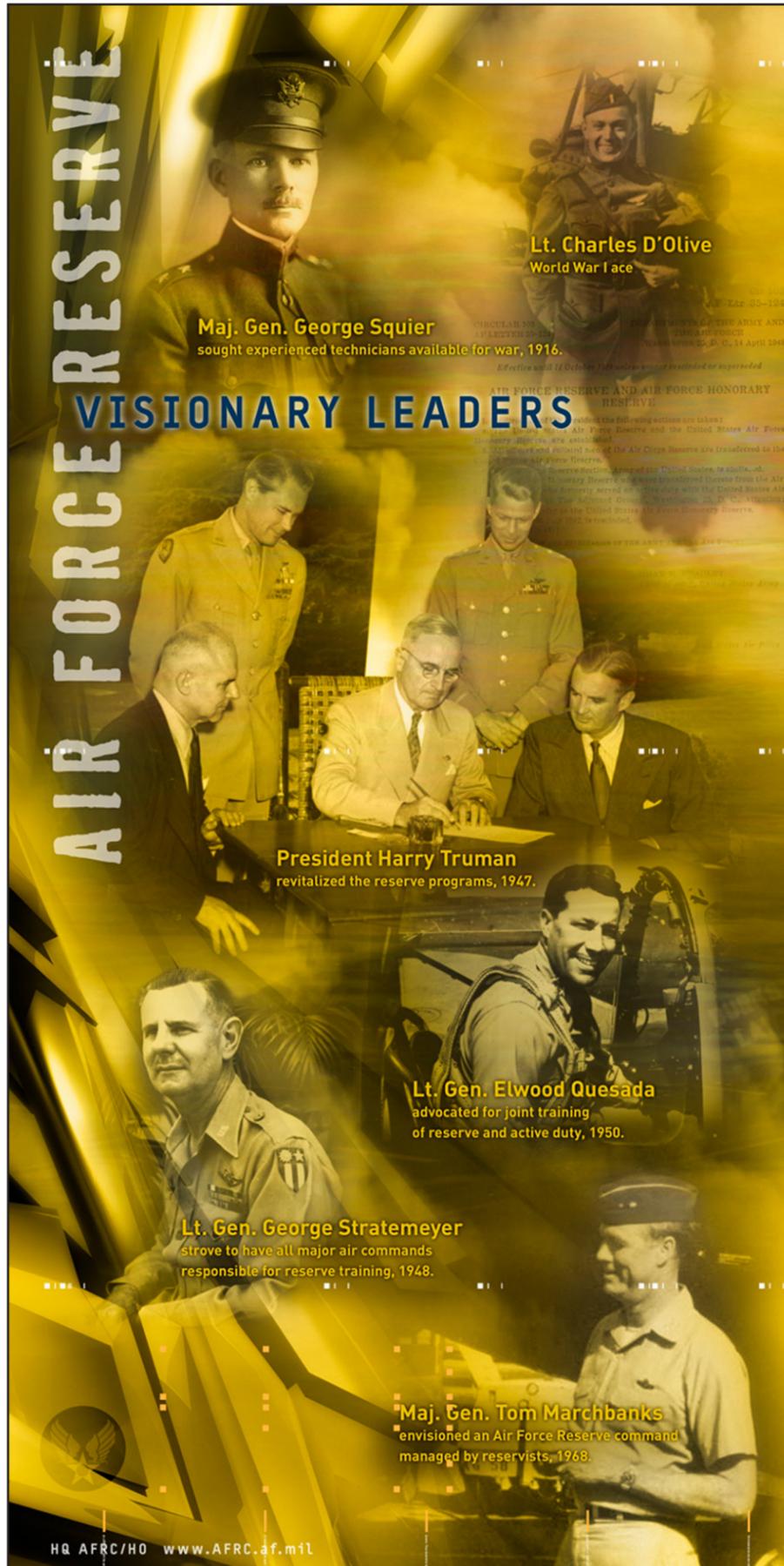
Senior Airman John Zerilli, 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, dental assistant

FIT FOR FREEDOM



"Our mission requires us to be physically fit. Being fit can prove to be the deciding factor between life and death for Airmen and their fellow Wingmen when combat actions require extreme physical exertion. Airmen must constantly hone their physical abilities to withstand and overcome the demanding rigors of deployment and combat."

Rodney J. McKinley, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force 21 May 2007



Lt. Charles D'Olive
World War I ace

Maj. Gen. George Squier
sought experienced technicians available for war, 1916.

VISIONARY LEADERS

President Harry Truman
revitalized the reserve programs, 1947.

Lt. Gen. Elwood Quesada
advocated for joint training
of reserve and active duty, 1950.

Lt. Gen. George Stratemeyer
strove to have all major air commands
responsible for reserve training, 1948.

Maj. Gen. Tom Marchbanks
envisioned an Air Force Reserve command
managed by reservists, 1968.

Around AFRC



CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti (July 14, 2011) -- Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, stationed at Camp Lemonnier, Combined Joint Task Force Horn Africa, in Djibouti, prepare to unload a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, July 14, from an Air Force Reserve Command C-5B assigned to the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. Two CH-53E helicopters were delivered to augment readiness and support regional operations in East Africa.