

# ANGEL'S WINGS ONLINE

920TH RESCUE WING

DECEMBER 2019

## SEARCH FOR MISSING AIRMAN



Lt. Col. John Lowe, 39th Rescue Squadron pilot, flies a 920th Rescue Wing HC-130P/N Combat King over the Gulf of Mexico on Nov. 6, 2019 while scanning the waters for the missing Airman from the 24th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida. As of November 8, 2019, the Air Force assumed the lead role as the search transitioned to a recovery effort. The Special Tactics Airman was identified as Staff Sgt. Cole Condiff, 29, was a static-line jumpmaster, military free-fall jumper, combat scuba diver, air traffic controller and a joint terminal attack controller. Sgt. Condiff is survived by his wife and their two daughters as well as by his parents, sister and two brothers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan)

## News & Features



### SPECIAL TACTICS AIRMAN IDENTIFIED

Active recovery efforts for U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Cole Condiff, a Special Tactics combat controller who had an unplanned parachute departure from a C-130 aircraft November 5, 2019 over the Gulf of Mexico, south of Hurlburt Field, have been suspended.



### HC-130 PILOT FOLLOWS PARENTS LEGACY

Air Force Reserve pilot 1st. Lt. Nash Blackwelder grew up hearing his father talk about how great it was to fly onboard Air Force C-130 aircraft. See story on page 4.



### HQ ARPC BUILDS LEADERS WITH RDEDB

Maj. Gen. John C. Flournoy and a team of four colonels, came together Oct. 28 through Nov. 1 as the AY20/21 Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board (RDEDB). RDEDB selection process is held once a year and aims to align the most qualified Reserve officers with limited in-residence Professional Military Education and Developmental Education opportunities.

## Notes of Interest

### 920TH RESCUE WING CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY, DEC 8

Col. John Dobbin will assume command of the 920th Rescue Wing from Col. Kurt Matthews during a change of command ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 inside Hangar 750 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

Col. Dobbin entered the Air Force in May 1997 as a graduate of Florida Southern College. He has held operational, command and staff positions encompassing conventional and special activities in support of numerous named Department of Defense, State Department and interagency operations. Prior to his current position as Officer to the Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander Air Force Reserve Command, he was Assistant Deputy Director, Joint Staff J5 Strategy, Plans and Policy – Africa.

Col. Matthews will next serve as the Vice Commander of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Force Reserve Base, Georgia.

### CHANGES TO TSP COMING

Annual TSP contribution limits will increase to \$19,500 starting in January 2020. The annual "Catch-Up" contribution limit, which allows people over the age of 50 to invest a little more and catch up with those who started investing earlier in life, is rising to \$6,500 as well. The 2019 limits for TSP contribution and "Catch-Up" contributions, set by the Internal Revenue Service, were \$19,000 and \$6,000 respectively in 2019, so both have gone up by \$500. Contributors are reminded to carefully calculate their contribution over the course of the calendar year. In the event contributions are maxed out prior to the end of the calendar year, agency matching contributions for remaining pay periods will be affected.

### FREE YOGA CLASSES AVAILABLE

Innovation Yoga offers a free weekly yoga class to currently serving military members, veterans and families on Saturdays at 1100. Their address is 714 South Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, Fla.

### 2019 ALMANAC

FOLLOW THE  
920TH RQW  
ONLINE





# Farewell from the Commander...


920th Rescue Wing,

It's been a tremendous privilege to serve as your wing commander for the past 3 years! I will be moving on to my next assignment and wanted to say "good bye". I can honestly say this has been the most rewarding experience of my career. Being a part of a team that is so successful and watching you all accomplish the mission has been phenomenal. I simply asked you to "lean forward" and you responded... winning the 2017 Power & Vigilance award, the 2018 Best Wing in AFRC, and leading the rescue community with successful deployments, hurricane support, and civilian rescues! You've shown great resilience, care, and respect along the way caring for each other and honoring our Fallen Heroes. Despite incredible challenges, you always overcome and only grow stronger. Your pride and love of mission and your teammates is contagious and recognized throughout the command. Thank you for embracing a culture of readiness and mission-focused servant leadership. Together we've all focused on revitalizing our squadrons and made huge progress, but there's still work ahead. Your next wing commander, Col John Dobbin, is an outstanding leader and more than ready to take the 920th Rescue Wing to the next level. I wish you all the best, and want to thank you for all you do for our Air Force and country!



Rescue Regards,  
  
Col Kurt Matthews  
Commander

## 305th RQS trains at MacDill AFB

Aircrew prepare to unload an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter assigned to the 305th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., from a C-5 Super Galaxy assigned to the 512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del., at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Nov. 6, 2019. The helicopters and support equipment were delivered to MacDill as part of an upcoming exercise. Read the full story by clicking [HERE](#). 

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan C. Grossklag)



# Holiday Season Terrorism Awareness

By Steven Nutt, 75th Air Base Wing Anti-terrorism Representative

The holiday season has always been a wondrous time of year for family. Many celebrate by traveling to share the company of loving relatives and friends, attend tree lighting ceremonies and other seasonal venues, and count the many blessings bestowed upon us as Americans.

Unfortunately, even with all the wonderment of the holiday season, terrorist groups and those who espouse their radical ideology remain intent on conducting attacks in order to capitalize on the cultural significance attached to this time of year.

As you prepare to travel, share time with family and friends, attend large holiday events or receive packages and presents by mail, take a moment to review the below listed mail indicators and keep them in mind throughout the holiday season. If you receive an item of mail that meets one, or more, of the indicators listed below immediately notify emergency personnel by dialing 911.

### Suspicious Mail Indicators

Although the odds of receiving dangerous mail are extremely unlikely, those that have been identified to date have had some very common characteristics. The following are some characteristics that repeatedly show up in the appearance of mail bombs/suspicious packages:



- Excessive postage.
- Return address may be fictitious or non-existent.
- The postmark may show a different location than the return address.
- Mail bombs may bear restricted endorsements, such as "Personal" or "Private." This is particularly important when the addressee does not usually receive personal mail at the office.
- Mail bombs may display distorted handwriting, or the name and address may be prepared with homemade labels or cut-and-paste lettering.
- Parcel bombs may be unprofessionally wrapped with several combinations of tape used to secure the package, and may be endorsed "Fragile - Handle With Care" or "Rush - Do Not Delay."
- Letter bombs may feel rigid, or appear uneven or lopsided.
- Package bombs may have an irregular shape, soft spots or bulges.
- Mail bombs may have protruding wires, aluminum foil, or oil stains, and may emit a Peculiar odor.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!



# HC-130 Pilot Follows Parents Legacy

Story by Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo Sanes,  
920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Florida -- Air Force Reserve pilot 1st. Lt. Nash Blackwelder grew up hearing his father talk about how great it was to fly onboard Air Force C-130 aircraft.

“Growing up hearing those stories, I knew I wanted to do the same,” said Blackwelder.

His ties to the airframe go back a generation when both of his parents were aircrew on earlier models.

In 2013 Blackwelder had an opportunity to follow in their footsteps by joining the Air Force Reserve’s 39th Rescue Squadron as a radio operator.

He previously served as an active duty Airborne Radar Technician flying aboard E-3 Sentry aircraft. After his third deployment he wanted to try something new and transitioned to the Air Force Reserve.

Blackwelder is now bidding farewell to the 920th Rescue Wing’s fixed-wing aircraft, the HC-130P/N Combat King, a plane designed for combat-search-and-rescue missions. He and other 920th RQW aviators will have nine months of training in Albuquerque, New Mexico where they’ll learn how to operate the newer HC-130J.

“People say a C-130 is a C-130,” said Blackwelder. “You can’t go into it with that mindset. You have to treat it like a brand new aircraft because you have brand new avionics.”

The 920th RQW is expected to be operating a new fleet of J Model aircraft in the spring of 2020.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan)



## “Fini” Flight

920th Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Smith is hosed down by his 12 year old son, Garrett, following Chief Smith’s final flight in the HC-130P/N on Nov. 21, 2019. The hosedown as well as being drenched in sea dye is a tradition that typically marks the end of ones flying career CMS-gt. Smith has logged over 2,400 flight hours during his career. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Goonan)

# Student Honors Teacher on Veterans Day

Story by Maj. Jennifer Pearson, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

Veteran’s Day is an opportunity to give thanks to those currently serving, and to those who have served our great country; protecting the freedoms, rights, and privileges American’s enjoy today. As a history teacher, I share with my students how this day was initially called Armistice Day to recognize the day the ceasefire was signed during World War I, putting an end to hostilities on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. In 1954, Congress replaced ‘Armistice’ with ‘Veteran’s’ to acknowledge all who serve.

To honor Veterans, many schools across America hold Veteran’s Day assemblies to help the students learn about military service and those who fought in prior and current conflicts. Often, students find inspiration in learning their teacher or a friend’s family member has served or is currently serving the country, as have my students.

One student in particular, senior Caroline Beattie, Manatee School for the Arts, (MSA) Manatee County, Florida, where I teach, asked if she could complete a painting of me as her submission to recognize local veterans during our school’s Veteran’s Day assembly and program. The school recognizes current and past faculty members, and former students who have or are serving in all branches of the military.



Upon joining MSA as a sophomore, Caroline was approached by her art teacher, Ms. Rosenbarger, to paint for MSA’s Veteran’s Day Assembly that is held every year. “Painting portraits with saturated and eccentric colors brings me a lot of joy,” she said. “There is so much to uncover within a person when you have the chance to draw out their spirit.”

Previously, she has completed portraits of her father who served as a Marine, and her grandfather who served in the Army and Navy.

“I painted my grandfather for 2018’s assembly, and when I finished the painting I was able to share it with him before he died this summer. At [his] memorial service I shared the artwork with family and friends. I was gracious to be able to represent his time in the Navy and Army, as well as connect people to his spirit.”

I always share my background with my students to include my service as a Citizen Airmen in the Air Force Reserve.

“This year I wasn’t sure who I was going to paint. At the beginning of the year when you mentioned that you are in the Air Force, my brain lit up and I knew who would be the subject of this year’s piece. Your personality stood out as someone who cares about their job and how they teach,” said Beattie

“It was a refreshing contrast to paint a woman this year to represent one of the military branches. I’m very grateful I have the opportunity to end my senior year with another meaningful painting,” said Beattie.

I was extremely honored to be asked and touched that I inspired Cari’s creativity. The painting of me will be displayed at the school for the Veteran’s Day assemblies, and in March 2020, it will be entered in the VFW Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

The completed paintings and accompanying narratives helps to educate others about the military experience, how and where individuals can serve, and how the overall experience impacts the veteran in their daily lives and post-military service.

“I hope that my artwork evokes strong emotions out of the people who view my pieces. I have gotten a myriad of responses to how my paintings make people feel, such as happiness, relief and sadness,” said Beattie.

Communities across America host various parades, celebrations, and ceremonies to honor veterans. In addition, restaurants offer discounts to veterans and their families.



# HC-130 2105 Retires to “The Boneyard”

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brandon Kalloo)



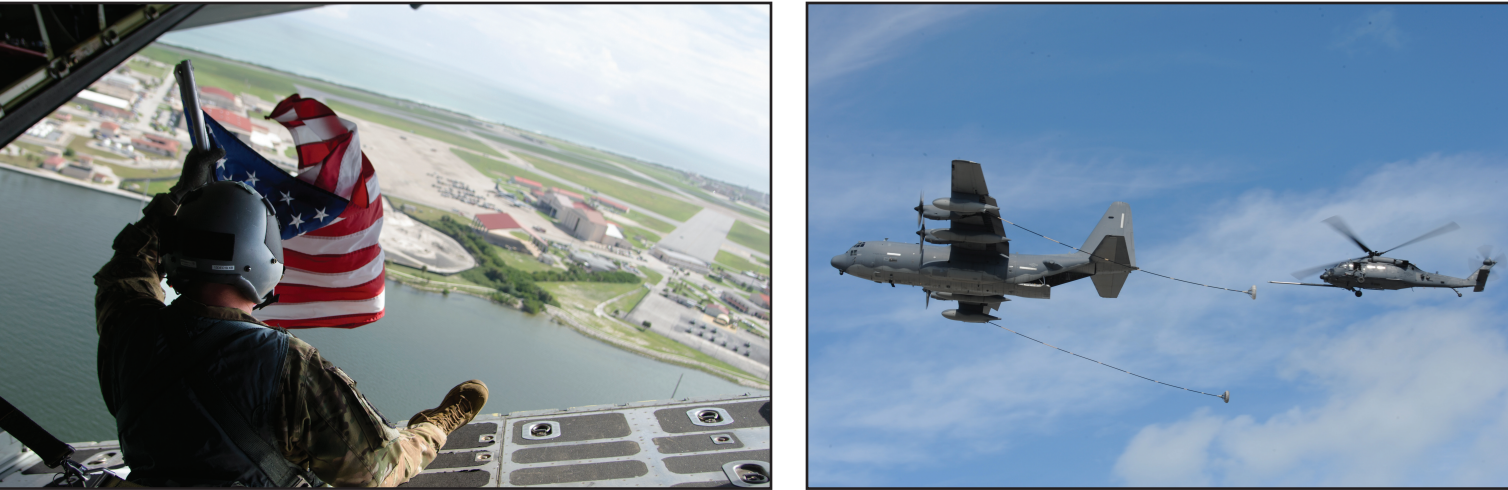
On Dec. 3, 2019 one of the remaining three HC-130P/N Combat King aircraft departed Patrick Air Force Base permanently. The HC-130 airframe, tail number 2105, arrived safely at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), often called “The Boneyard.” AMARG is a U.S. Air Force aircraft and missile storage and maintenance facility in Tucson, Arizona, located on Davis–Monthan Air Force Base.

The 920th Rescue Wing expects to receive a replacement fleet of HC-130J in the Spring of 2020. This new airframe, HC-130J, will not only replace the legacy HC-130P/N fleet but with its arrival also comes the elimination of two aviation career fields: Flight Engineer and Airborne Mission Systems Specialist.



(Courtesy photos)

# HC-130P/N RETIREMENT AND REUNION EVENT -- CELEBRATING A LEGACY



(U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jared Trimarchi and SrA. Cali Elliott)



# Upcoming Yellow Ribbon Events

**Orlando, FL -- Dec 20 - 22**

**Costa Mesa, CA -- Jan 24 - 26**

**Denver, CO -- Feb 21 - 23**

**Orlando, FL -- Mar 20 - 22**

*Yellow Ribbon Rep:*  
TSgt. Catherine Herr

Cell: 316-204-0406  
DSN: 854-6030  
Catherine.Herr@us.af.mil



Helping maintain resiliency during all stages of deployment is paramount to the morale and welfare of our Airmen and families. The Air Force Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program is a series of events designed to provide members and families with essential resources prior to departure (pre-deployment), a level of stability and support while deployed (during deployment), and successful re-integration techniques after the deployment cycle ends (post deployment).

## Bod Pods and Metacheks available during Dec UTA, provided by 45MDG

The 45th Medical Groups Health Promotion Red Cross Volunteer, Matt McCaskill, will be available on the December UTA Weekend, 7-8 Dec, to support the 920th RQW in providing Bod Pod's and/or Metacheks. Both assessments together take approximately 20-30 minutes time.

Mr. McCaskill will be at the 45 MDG Clinic during the UTA from 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on both Sat and Sunday for anyone wanting to have the assessment/s done. It will be on a "walk-in" basis and they can wait in the lobby by the Public Health desk.

Requirements are as follows:

BOD POD-wear or bring spandex/compression attire (males-bottom only and females-top and bottom), 2 hour fast-no food, water or exercise. Metachek-4 hour fast (no food, water, exercise, smoking)

Contact Michele Leone with any questions.

Michele Leone, 45MDG/OMRS  
Public Health/Health Promotion Manager  
Office: 321-494-2660

### Measuring Your Body Composition in the BOD POD®



Measuring your body composition in the BOD POD is quick, easy and fun! The entire process, from start to finish, takes less than five minutes. Based on the same "gold standard" principle as hydrostatic weighing ("dunk tank"), the BOD POD uses air instead of water to provide the most accurate body composition measurements available today. Best of all, no one gets wet!

#### Preparing for your appointment...

- It is **ESSENTIAL** you wear approved form-fitting clothing for accurate results. Acceptable clothing includes:
  - ✓ Spandex, Lycra® or other Speedo®-type swimsuit
  - ✓ Spandex or Lycra compression shorts and light-weight sports bra (no padding or wires).
- Do not exercise within two hours prior to testing
- Do not eat within two hours prior to testing
- Use the restroom, if necessary, prior to testing

#### The BOD POD test...

First, you are given a swim cap to wear (to compress your hair). Next, you are weighed and some basic identifying information is entered into the program. You then step into the BOD POD and sit comfortably for two brief (50 second) measurements.

## Pre-test Requirements

It is desirable to measure a person's metabolic rate at a true resting level. To ensure one is at rest, we recommend the following preparation:

1. **Avoid eating a meal 4 hours before the test.**
2. **Avoid exercising on the day of testing.**
3. **If possible, avoid the use of stimulants such as caffeine prior to testing.**
4. **During the test it is important to get into a comfortable position and relax as much as possible.**
5. **Keep lips sealed lightly around the mouthpiece. It is important that all the air breathed out is analyzed by the MetaCheck™.**



# Transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill to Spouse and Dependents

The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Servicemembers to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouse or dependent children. The request to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents must be completed while serving as an active member of the Armed Forces. The Department of Defense (DoD) determines whether or not you can transfer benefits to your family. Once the DoD approves benefits for transfer, the new beneficiaries apply for them at VA.

## Type of Assistance

Eligible Servicemembers may transfer all 36 months or the portion of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (unless DoD or the Department of Homeland Security has limited the number of transferable months). If you're eligible, you may transfer benefits to the following individuals:

- Your spouse
- One or more of your children
- Any combination of spouse and child

## Available Benefits and Eligibility

Family members must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits at the time of transfer to receive transferred benefits. The option to transfer is open to any member of the armed forces active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and meets the following criteria:

- Has at least six years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval and agrees to serve four additional years in the armed forces from the date of election.
- Has at least 10 years of service in the armed forces (active duty and/or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval, is precluded by either standard policy (by Service Branch or DoD) or statute from committing to four additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.
- Transfer requests are submitted and approved while the member is in the armed forces.
- Effective **1/12/2020**, eligibility to transfer benefits will be limited to servicemembers with at least 6 years but not more than 16 years of active duty or selected reserve service. So servicemembers with more than 16 years of service should transfer benefits before **1/12/2020**.

**Transfer Process.** While in the armed forces, transferors use the Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) website to designate, modify, and revoke a Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) request. After leaving the armed forces, transferors may provide a future effective date for use of TOE, modify the number of months transferred, or revoke entitlement transferred by submitting a written request to VA. Submit a TEB request for your Service component approval. (NOTE: When the milConnect Home page displays, select Education then Transfer of Education Benefits [TEB] from the menu bar.)

Upon approval, family members may apply to use transferred benefits with VA by applying online or by printing, completing, and mailing the VA Form 22-1990e to your VA Regional processing office of jurisdiction. VA Form 22-1990e should only be completed and submitted to VA by the family member after DoD has approved the request for TEB. Do not use VA Form 22-1990e to apply for transfer of education benefits. *(Cont. page 11)*

## Other Factors to Consider

### *Marriage and Divorce*

- A child's subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the educational benefit; however, after an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

- A subsequent divorce will not affect the transferees eligibility to receive educational benefits; however, after an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee under this section, the eligible individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

### *Reallocation of Benefits*

If a Veteran or Servicemember wants to reallocate transferred benefits they can do so using the TEB Portlet in MilConnect at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

### *Reallocation of Benefits if a Family Member Dies*

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Assistance Act of 2017, allows for designation and transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents of the Veteran/servicemember upon the death of the Veteran/servicemember or of a dependent who had unused transferred benefits.

### *Nature of Transfer*

Family member use of transferred educational benefits is subject to the following rules:

### *Spouses*

- May start to use the benefit immediately
- May use the benefit while the member remains in the Armed Forces or after separation from active duty
- Are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance while the member is serving on active duty
- If servicemember's last discharge was before January 1, 2013, can use the benefit for up to 15 years after the last separation from active duty. If the servicemember's last discharge is after January 1, 2013, there is no time limit to use benefits

### *Children*

May start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 10 years of service in the armed forces

- May use the benefit while the eligible individual remains in the armed forces or after separation from active duty
- May not use the benefit until he or she has attained a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate), or he or she has reached age 18
- Is entitled to the monthly housing allowance stipend even though the eligible individual is on active duty

- Is not subject to the 15-year delimiting date, but may not use the benefit after reaching 26 years of age

For more information, contact Air Force Personnel Center at 720-847-3597.



# AFRC NCO Leadership Development Course (NCOLDC)

**Description:** This course is designed to deliver mid-level enlisted personnel (E-5 and E-6) with the leadership and management training needed to perform their roles effectively as tactical leaders.

Specifically, the course focuses on NCO core competencies such as; employing military capabilities, individual readiness, managing organizations and resources, strategic thinking, leading people, effective communications, and embodying airman culture.

Students also receive assistance with improving their bullet writing skills for EPRs, ACA, and awards & decorations.

HOSTED BY 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Force Support Squadron Education and Training

**WHEN:** Mon-Fri 27-31 January 2020, 0800-1600

**WHERE:** Bldg 998, Bldg A. Welcome packet w/ exact meeting room will be mailed.

**PREREQUISITES:** Student must be an E5/E6

**FUNDING:** Unit Funded for FY20 with the stipulation that RA signs off on request (complete the AF Form 101.) Annual Tour is NOT authorized for this course.

**CLASS SIZE:** Limited to 25 students.

You will be added to the roster as you are approved.

POC:  
SMSgt Heidi L. White  
Chief, Education & Training  
854-8515

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Complete the AF Form 101, School Request Form (AGRs and ARTs attending in CIV Status complete the SF 182) and submit to your Training Manager.

**RSVP by: 31 Dec 2019**

## AFRC Senior NCO Leadership Course (SNCOLC)

This course provides senior NCOs the opportunity to explore in-depth communication, trust, teamwork, and current AFRC leadership initiatives. Students will learn techniques to convey basic leadership and teamwork proficiencies.

HOSTED BY 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Force Support Squadron Education and Training

**WHEN:** Thursday & Friday 14-15 May 2020, 0800-1600

**WHERE:** 998, Bldg A. Welcome packet w/ exact meeting room will be mailed.

**PREREQUISITES:** Student must be an E7-E9

**FUNDING:** Unit Funded for FY20 with the stipulation that RA signs off on request (complete the AF Form 101). Annual tour is NOT authorized for this course

**CLASS SIZE:** Limited to 25 students. Minimum class size is 15.

You will be added to the roster as you are approved.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Complete the AF Form 101 School Request Form (AGRs and ARTs attending in CIV Status complete the SF 182) and submit to your Training Manager.

POC:  
SMSgt Heidi L. White  
Chief, Education & Training  
854-8515

**RSVP by: 10 April 20**