

# The MIGHTY EIGHTH VOICE

Published for the members of Eighth Air Force



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## QUICK TAKES

### 8 AF Booster Club Notes

The 8th Air Force Booster Club has newly elected officers. They are: 2nd Lt. Ray Champion, President; 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau, Vice-president; Airman 1st Class Loyeatta Manley, Treasurer; Airman 1st Class Kara Eidal, Assistant Treasurer; Airman 1st Class Lakiesha Walker, Secretary; and Tech. Sgt. Vanerra Reddic, Assistant Secretary.

With the closing of the CAOC Cafe, the booster club needs to host a lot of fund-raisers than usual to pay for this year's Thanksgiving Potluck, Christmas Party and Children's Christmas Party.

For more information about the booster club and ways you can help, call 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau at extension 2892.

## Airman of the Month

Congratulations to Airman Bruce Schankin, 608th Air Intelligence Squadron, for his selection as 8th Air Force March Airman of the Month

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photo by Airman 1st Class Kevin Camara

The "Mighty Eighth's" Outstanding Airmen of the Year award winners pose with Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander (left) and 8th Air Force Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ledoux (far right). The award winners are (left-right) Kelly Kay, Susan Viereck, Senior Airman Harold Tolbert, Staff Sgt. Julie Van Tassel, Master Sgt. Darrin F.B. Small, Master Sgt. Jimmy Williams, and Capt. David Stevens.

# Command selects "Mighty Eighth's" best of the best

By Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya  
8th Air Force Public Affairs

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.**—The "Mighty Eighth" selected the command's top service members, naming seven airmen, noncommissioned and company grade officers and civilians as 8th Air Force's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2002.

Sixty-eight people representing more than 45,000 Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and civilians serving in 8th Air Force competed for the award. Lieutenant Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air

Force commander, presented the awards March 6 during the annual award banquet here noted how proud he was of each of the nominee's accomplishments.

"I congratulate each of our deserving award nominees for their exceptional devotion to duty and untiring commitment to excellence," Carlson said to more than 200 guests during the awards presentation. "This evening, we recognize the most outstanding members of our 'Mighty Eighth' team in 2002. We are extremely proud of their achievements

● See BEST, page 6

# Military leaders send messages to troops

## From the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld:

On Monday night, March 17, president George W. Bush, our Commander in Chief, delivered an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein: to leave Iraq within 48 hours. Refusal to do so will result in military conflict. And if it comes to war, the president made clear, Saddam Hussein's regime will be removed from power, the Iraqi people will be liberated, and we will begin disarming Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction.

You are the men and women who will deliver on the president's pledge. And today, as you and coalition forces begin to fulfill your mission, know that you will carry the thoughts and prayers of the American people with you into battle.

I fully recognize that lives are at stake—American, coalition, and Iraqi; military and civilian. War is a last resort, to be undertaken only after every other alternative has been tried.

For twelve years, the international community sought to disarm Iraq peacefully. We have tried economic sanctions, inspections, and diplomacy—all have failed. The Iraqi regime repeatedly refused to disarm.

As the president said, the Iraqi regime is a grave and gathering danger. With each passing day, Saddam Hussein advances his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, and could pass them along to terrorists. If he is allowed to do so, the result could be the deaths not of 3,000 people, as on September 11th, but 30,000 or 300,000.

Our responsibility - your mission - is to prevent that from happening and eliminate the Iraqi regime as a threat.

As you embark on this mission, know that you are not alone. Our coalition includes dozens of countries that are helping in a variety of ways. You will fight alongside the forces of such stalwart friends as Australia, Great Britain and many others.

You may face great challenges and dangers. Wars have their surprises. The most difficult step a president can make is the decision to send the armed forces of our nation into battle.

As you prepare — know that this war is necessary, it is just, and that you have the resources and commitment you need to achieve victory.

You have the strong support of your Commander in Chief, the Congress and of the American people.

I thank you for all you do for our country. I recognize the sacrifices your families are making, and thank them, too. May God bless you, and keep you, and guide you in the days ahead.

## From Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

On September 11th, 2001, terrorists murdered thousands of innocent men, women and children on American soil. The attack immediately plunged our nation into a global war against terrorism. As part of our war to defend America, Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun.

The rulers of Iraq wield weapons of mass destruction and give support to international terrorists. America and our coalition partners are determined to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and destroy Iraq's safehaven for terrorists. In doing this, we will liberate the Iraqi people from the terror, torture and misery they have suffered under a brutal tyrant.

We have a sworn duty to protect and defend the United States. Taking the fight to the enemy has always been a key part of our military strategy. We will demonstrate to all that we fight not to impose our will, but to defend our freedom, and to extend that freedom and hope to the Iraqi people. Not only are you fighting to protect American freedoms, but to prevent terrorism in a troubled region that threatens peace throughout the world.

As you enter this fight, be confident that you are well prepared, well trained, and well supported in the mission that lies ahead. Your families, your loved ones—indeed, your nation—stand united behind you. Take pride in the legitimacy and the necessity of your mission; show compassion for the lives this war will forever

change; and rest assured the outcome is not in doubt.

I am proud of your sacrifice and service, and know you will perform your duty with the courage and distinction that comes from serving in the finest American fighting force ever. Whether you are serving on foreign shores or protecting our homeland, our country is depending on you.

I am honored to serve with you as you carry freedom forward at this critical point in history. May God bless and protect each of you, your families, and the United States of America.

## From Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

“As our nation calls upon its armed forces to meet this next challenge in the war on terrorism, the men and women of the U.S. Air Force will play a pivotal role in striking our enemies, defending our coalition forces, and protecting our allies. As you have always done, you will perform your duties with honor, and with the knowledge that our nation's security depends upon the excellence and professionalism of every airman in our Air Force.

“Ours is the greatest joint warfighting force ever assembled, and our nation is blessed to have over 700,000 active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen taking the battle to the enemy and securing our homeland. You, the brave warriors who voluntarily risk your lives to protect our values and way of life, are the reason we will prevail in this fight. The American people have the utmost confidence and trust in you, they support you, and are proud of your dedication. We couldn't be more proud of your service, and are both honored and humbled to lead this force.

“In this time of conflict and great sacrifice, the admiration, thoughts, and prayers of our entire nation are with you and your families. Do your duty to the best of your ability and we will secure victory, for the sake of our nation and freedom-loving people around the globe.”

# Red Horse dedicates work to building base

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik  
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP)**—Heavy equipment, red hard hats and the shout of ‘Ready, go!’ break the early morning silence as members of the Red Horse unit start another grueling workday at a forward-deployed location in the Arabian Gulf region.

People from the 819th/219th Red Horse Squadron were deployed to help build up portions of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing and other forward-deployed locations throughout the region.

Red Horse workers came together to put 160 feet of steel arches in place on a new supply building in one day. The work load may be intense, especially since the new building — if completed in time — will set a new record for the number of arches that can be completed in one day.

“Every once in a while we are challenged to complete projects in a certain timeframe to test how good we are,” said Maj. Corey Halvorson, Red Horse squadron commander. “We might take them up on a good-natured challenge just to prove how well we work together as a team to accomplish difficult tasks.”

Taking on challenges seems to come easily to a squadron so diverse in talents. The squadron is made up largely of Air National Guardsmen who bring job skills from civilian jobs and prior active-duty service backgrounds.

“In the civilian sector, I work in a mental health center,” said Senior Airman Drenda Niemann. “I enjoy working with Red Horse because it gives me a chance to do a different job that lets me work with my hands. At the end of a day, I can physically see what my co-workers and I have accomplished.”

“Everyone here does a little bit of everything ... because in contingency operations like this, we can rely on a member’s civilian skills in addition to their military specialty,” said Staff Sgt. Keith Morris.

If the team needs electricians for example, it would try and find someone who does that in their civilian job, said Morris.

“It is nice to have resources like that in addition to our active-duty members - the work gets done, and we all get to learn something new,” Morris added.

Everyone is sure to learn something when 20 percent of the 219th Red Horse Squadron enlisted airmen have college degrees with several also holding master’s degrees and another 10 percent attending college as full-time students.

“We have people in every niche in the private-sector, from large company managers and engineers to psychologists and college students,” said Halvorson. “That is what makes our unit one of the most educated and diversified in the Air Force.”

The concept of an Air Force unit that could build a base from the ground up dates back to 1967, when then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara wanted an Air Force equivalent to the Navy Construction Battalion, better known as the SEABEES.

The 219th, an Air National Guard unit,



photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

Senior Airmen Aaron Childers and Eugene Sloat work with Master Sgt. Darin Woepfel and Senior Airman Robert Baldwin to align and set a completed arch. Members of the 819th/219th Red Horse Squadron have built numerous structures at forward-deployed locations throughout the Arabian Gulf region.

stood up in 1997 and becomes part of the 819th Red Horse Squadron when activated.

“From the time we stood up in 1997 to now, we still retain about 85 percent of the same reservists that started with us,” said Halvorson. “With only 2 percent of the same active-duty members being with us that long due to permanent-change-of-station moves, retirements and separations, the combined unit really makes us more of a close-knit family.”

## The “Mighty Eighth” Voice

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**Eighth Air Force Commander**  
Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

**Chief, Public Affairs**  
Capt. Denise Kerr

**Deputy Chief, Public Affairs**  
2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau

**Editor**  
Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya  
NCOIC, Public Affairs

# “Repeat after me!”



photo by Technical Sgt. Mike Nixon

Lieutenant Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, recites the oath of enlistment to 20 people during a reenlistment ceremony March 10. The ceremony was part of the general's two-day base visit to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. See story on page 11.

## Does someone you know deserve to be “Spotlighted?”

Call public affairs at DSN 781-2156, or e-mail Master Sgt. Rick DelaHaya at richard.delahaya@barksdale.af.mil

## Awards and Decorations

**Congratulations to the following Headquarters, 8th Air Force medal recipients:**

- Col. John McLean, *Legion of Merit*
- Lt. Col. Randall Richert, *Meritorious Service Medal, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster*
- Maj. Roderick Haley, *Meritorious Service Medal*
- Maj. David Hightower, *Meritorious Service Medal*
- Maj. Malcolm Petteway, *Air Medal*

## Senior Master Sgt. Promotions

**Congratulations to the following Headquarters, 8th Air Force Senior Master Sergeant selectees:**

- John Jones, *8th Air Force/SFX*
- Jeff Kain, *8th Air Force/SFX*
- Phillip Semler, *608th Air Operations Group*
- Daniel Vortherms, *608th Air Operations Group*
- Jacqueline Brown, *608th Air Support Squadron*
- Mark Gonzales, *608th Air Support Squadron*
- Dennis Wallace, *608th Air Support Squadron*
- David Campbell, *819th Red Horse Squadron*
- Steven Smith, *819th Red Horse Squadron*
- William McAdams, *3rd Air Support Operations Group*
- Royce Wadsworth, *3rd Air Support Operations Group*

## Welcome to the “Mighty Eighth”

*The following people joined the Headquarters 8th Air Force team in March:*

- ◆ **Airman 1st Class Richard England**  
608th Air Communications Squadron
- ◆ **Airman 1st Class Jason Black**  
608th Air Intelligence Squadron
- ◆ **Senior Airman Talia Galindo**  
608th Air Intelligence Squadron
- ◆ **2nd Lt. Keith Abston**  
608th Air Intelligence Squadron



## Colonel Promotions

**Congratulations to the following colonel selectees:**

### Headquarters Eighth Air Force

- Patrick Condray, *26th Operational Weather Squadron*
- Edward Holland, *3rd Air Support Operations Group*
- Kevin Smith, *3rd ASOG*

### 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA

- Michael Morabito
- Tim Ray
- Charles Williamson

### 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, N.D.

- Leonard Jackson

### 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.

- Garry Baceus

### 55th Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.

- Glen Gullekson
- Jon Kimminau
- Charles Parks

### 67th Information Operations Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas

- Laura DiSilverio
- Robert Kaufman
- Brian Storck

### 70th Intelligence Wing, Fort Meade, Md.

- Steven Crandall
- Robert Rehbein
- John Stauffer

### 116th Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.

- Willie Nunn

### 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

- Paul Land
- Don Sparks
- Scott Vanderhamm

# 2002 Outstanding Airmen of the Year nominees

## Congratulations to ALL of the "Mighty Eighth's" 2002 8th Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year nominees:

### **Airman Category**

- SSgt Karla C. Bateman, 67th Information Operations Wing
- SrA Jennifer L. Davidson, 2nd Bomb Wing
- SrA Randee J. Dietrick, 509th Bomb Wing
- SrA Jason R. Garced, 552nd Air Control Wing
- SrA John A. Lillis, 5th Bomb Wing
- SrA Kyle D. McSherry, 8th Air Force
- SrA Sean C. Reynolds, 70th Intelligence Wing
- SrA Matthew Roe, 55th Wing
- SrA Harold Tolbert, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- A1C Chad D. Longmire, 116th Air Control Wing

### **NCO Category**

- TSgt Deanamarie L. Berry, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- TSgt Donna M. Besley, 552nd Air Control Wing
- TSgt Douglas L. Chase, 5th Bomb Wing
- TSgt Cassandra Davis, 67th Information Operations Wing
- TSgt Teresa A. Keysor, 55th Wing
- SSgt Anthony L. Anderson, 2nd Bomb Wing
- SSgt Shawn J. Minyon, 8th Air Force
- SSgt BillyJack A. Roberts, 509th Bomb Wing
- SSgt Joseph A. Stuar, 116th Air Control Wing
- SSgt Julie L. Van Tassel, 70th Intelligence Wing

### **Senior NCO Category**

- SMSgt William O. Crow, 2nd Bomb Wing
- SMSgt Kevin D. Inskip, 116th Air Control Wing
- SMSgt Eric R. Scott, 55th Wing
- SMSgt David A. Sousa, 552nd Air Control Wing
- MSgt Timothy D. Allen, 5th Bomb Wing
- MSgt Richard W. Burrell, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- MSgt Carl C. Keenan, Jr., 67th Information Operations Wing
- MSgt John E. Little, 509th Bomb Wing
- MSgt Darren F.B. Small, 8th Air Force
- MSgt Allen W. Young, 70th Intelligence Wing

### **First Sergeant Category**

- SMSgt Jerome F. McCoy, 70th Intelligence Wing
- SMSgt Martin K. Smith, 55th Wing
- MSgt Gary R. Bolton, 509th Bomb Wing
- MSgt John J. Dunham, 552nd Air Control Wing

- MSgt Samuel D. Hankins, 67th Information Operations Wing
- MSgt Timothy D. Larson, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- MSgt John K. Perkins, 2nd Bomb Wing
- MSgt Gregory K. Robertson, 116th Air Control Wing
- MSgt Jimmy D. Williams, 5th Bomb Wing

### **Company Grade Officer Category**

- Capt Patrick J. Carley, 5th Bomb Wing
- Capt Bryan M. Gillespie, 509th Bomb Wing
- Capt Paul R. Kaster, Jr., 70th Intelligence Wing
- Capt Robert A. Kielty, 552nd Air Control Wing
- Capt Paul J. Maykish, 116th Air Control Wing
- Capt Kevin J. Osborne, 8th Air Force
- Capt Martin J. Pantaze, 2nd Bomb Wing
- Capt David L. Stevens, 67th Information Operations Wing
- 1Lt Joshua D. Biggers, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- 2Lt Michelle M. Libbey, 55th Wing

### **Civilian, Category 1**

- Antonina M. Dickey, 509th Bomb Wing
- Kelly R. Kay, 55th Wing
- Donna L. Maddox, 2nd Bomb Wing
- Anthony J. Mullins, 70th Intelligence Wing
- Norman D. Saylor, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- Ginney L. Schneibel, 5th Bomb Wing
- Sherrie Shows, 552nd Air Control Wing
- Linda J. Stonelake, 67th Information Operations Wing
- Eva T. Theriot, 8th Air Force

### **Civilian, Category II**

- Duane E. Chilton, 2nd Bomb Wing
- Joseph R. Dixon, 5th Bomb Wing
- Carol E. Drink, 552nd Air Control Wing
- Ronald E. Hawkins, 509th Bomb Wing
- Brenda L. Kay, 70th Intelligence Wing
- Paul F. Mazzarella, 116th Air Control Wing
- Dennis R. Tolliver, 9th Reconnaissance Wing
- Susan V. Vierick, 67th Information Operations Wing
- Alan P. Williams, 8th Air Force
- Angela D. Williams, 55th Wing

● **BEST, from page 1**

and appreciative of their families' selfless contributions to our nation's defense."

The Eighth Air Force Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ledoux, agreed with Carlson and emphasized these winners really are the command's best performers.

"These people represent the best of the best ... but in reality, the 'Mighty Eighth' is full of outstanding performers," said Ledoux. "It's just that this seven award winners shined a little bit brighter."

The winners and a brief look at their accomplishments are:

**Airman for the Year**



—Senior Airman Harold Tolbert, 9<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, Calif. A heating, ventilation and air conditioning specialist, Tolbert has been deployed in support of

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch where he expertly maintained cooling for more than 1,400 buildings. He installed new systems during a 24-hour emergency upgrade to the Combined Air Operations Center, eliminating chronic overheating problems at one of the most critical command and control facility. He was also lauded for his combat readiness, undergoing 56 hours of rigorous field deployment and PRIME BEEF training, and enrolled in Arabic language, culture classes while deployed. Tolbert was also named the squadron's most involved airman, participating in the base Honor Guard, organizing a gospel music program for the base chapel, coordinating the squadron holiday party and volunteering more than 82 hours to help remodel a local church.

**NCO of the Year**



—Staff Sgt. Julie Van Tassel, 301<sup>st</sup> Intelligence Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan. A cryptologic language analyst, Van Tassel has been lauded by Department of Defense senior

officials as the "Linguist of the Future." She was a member of a two-person team that won the site's first-ever trophy from the DoD Worldwide Language Olympics, capturing first place out of 12 teams, including native speakers. The DoD also praised her for her "stellar" work after creating a new processing method for processing priority traffic that sliced acquisition to analysis time by 15 percent. Van Tassel also assumed the duties of branch chief—a position usually held by a more seasoned master sergeant, during the chief's two-month absence and superbly guided the effort in exploiting new networks. She was the recipient of the Aerospace Education Foundation Pitsenbarger Award, a scholarship given to CCAF graduates, and has been awarded a bachelor's degree in Asian studies from University of Maryland University College.

**Senior NCO of the Year**



—Master Sgt. Darrin F.B. Small, 819<sup>th</sup> RED HORSE Squadron, Malmstrom AFB, Mont. Small is the superintendent of airfields construction team delta and was selected to

form the first RED HORSE airborne Rapid Runway Repair team, evaluating a program for air-droppable equipment and airborne jump training. He was the project manager for an \$18 million runway

and taxiway repair at Masirah Island, Oman, preparing 1.79 million square feet of Priority 1 airfield. Small was lauded for saving more than 3,000 hours and \$45,000 during the project by designing and incorporating a new asphalt joint cutting techniques. His expertise in runway repair has led to him being named project manager for projects at Barksdale AFB, La., Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Fort Bragg, Ga. Always striving for improvement and community involvement, Small is a panel member for the first term Airmen Professional Development Seminar, and chairperson for the Cross Roads Memorial Baptist Church, volunteering more than 100 hours to help the church and parking lot.

**Company Grade Officer of the Year**

—Capt. David L. Stevens, 451st



Information Operations Squadron, RAF Menwith Hill, UK. Stevens led the Operation Northern Watch Targets Branch to 100 percent mission success rate as the chief,

J3 Policy, Oversight and Compliance branch. As the lead targeteer for the unit, he produced the first-ever strikes against multiple time-sensitive targets. Because of his expertise in the time-sensitive process, he improved the process for providing precision coordinates and target materials to the Combined Air Operations Center within 15 minutes from intelligence receipt, and lauded as "outstanding" by aircrews and "magnificent" by the Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander. Stevens was a distinguished graduate and top graduate award from Squadron Officer School; and earned the National Cryptologic School instructor rating. Stevens taught Bible study while deployed for 2 months, and teaches weekly adult Bible classes at a local church.

● see **BEST cont., page 10**

Inside the CAOC:

## Weather forecasters aid mission planning

### Asking about weather not casual question

By Bob Jensen

9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force  
Public Affairs

#### OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM —

Asking about the weather is not a casual question in the Combined Air Operations Center at a desert airbase. In fact, it is one of the key questions asked during every phase of the air tasking order, or ATO, cycle.

“Most systems we have are weather sensitive, so weather predictions must be integrated into the planning at all times,” said Lt. Col. Fred Fahlbusch, CAOC weather cell chief. “There are some systems and weapons that are all-weather, there’s no doubt about that; however, these systems and weapons have to take off and land so there’s always the (weather factor) at the base.”

Even though a pilot may be able to drop a bomb guided by the global positioning system, the pilot still has to land despite bad weather at the planned recovery base. Low visibility because of sand storms or fog can cause aircraft to divert to another base. This diversion can cause a domino effect because the plane will not be available for future missions.

Weather affects every air mission, not just air strikes and reconnaissance. For example, humanitarian operations planners need to know the conditions at their location and at the target zone. When dropping humanitarian rations, knowing wind patterns helps pilots hit the right drop zone.

“It’s the same with dropping leaflets,” Fahlbusch said. “You have to know what the winds are like at the required altitudes to drop the leaflets to hit the target or they’ll wind up somewhere else.”

“So even though the weather may not be a factor over the target area, somewhere in ... (the) process it always is,” he said. “During launch, recovery, dropping the bomb, refueling the plane or imaging the target.”

Fahlbusch, who is also the staff weather



photo by Capt. Jim Fabio

Master Sgt. Shawn Ambrisco, 26th Operational Weather Squadron (left), a duty weather forecaster, and Lt. Col. Fred Fahlbusch, the senior weather officer for the CAOC, discuss critical weather data at a forward-deployed location.

officer for the air component commander, outlined the ways the cell supports each step of the ATO planning process.

The ATO contains the marching orders for aircraft in the theater.

“The execution of an ATO requires synchronization at many levels and across many units,” he said. “Our goal is to make sure the people who are executing the ATO are not surprised, and they’re able to continue to execute it despite what weather challenges they encounter. If the product we put out is accurate, then weather is a force multiplier in the execution of the ATO.”

The weather cell staff provides information to planners from the beginning of the ATO process to the completion of actual missions, according to Fahlbusch. It is a complicated process that involves hundreds of military experts taking mountains of information and transforming that into the actual mission plans.

Beginning five days out from each mission date, the weather cell workers provide a forecast of what to expect down the road. The team continues to provide input to the CAOC staff doing combat planning, guid-

ance, apportionment, targeting and creating the master air attack plan. Weather forecasts help planners decide which weapons to use on specific targets.

The weather cell workers share real-time weather conditions over the targets and forecasts of what the weather will be like over the areas where planes may need to refuel or land.

After each mission, the weather workers provide input for combat assessment of the missions and how weather played a part in their success or failure.

Just like the weather, the work changes every day for the weather cell.

**(Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of articles on the inner workings of the Combined Air Operations Center located on a desert air base in Southwest Asia. The CAOC is the nerve center for all U.S. Central Command air component missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. With crews operating around the clock, the CAOC plans, monitors and directs theater missile defense, time-sensitive targeting, battlefield coordination, special operations support, sortie execution and other mission-critical operations.)**

# GMA pays visit to Dragon Lady's den



photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brady Smith

Members of the 9th Physiological Support Squadron help Capt. A.J. Werner of the 9th Operations Group suit up for a U-2 flight while an ABC news crew for "Good Morning America" shoots video for a segment on the U-2.

## By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Brady Smith

9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs

**BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** — A news crew from ABC's "Good Morning America" visited Beale Air Force Base on Feb. 25 and 26, highlighting the U-2 Dragon Lady, its capabilities and Team Beale's mission for a piece that aired the first week in March.

Media interest in the U-2 has increased lately because of its use for surveillance flights over Iraq, which has been a central demand by U.N. inspectors seeking to determine if Iraq still harbors weapons of mass destruction.

"The U-2 is amazing," said Mary Pflum, producer for the news crew. "We feel like we've won a major gold star in the news organization to work with the 9th Reconnaissance Wing on a story of an aircraft that is so visually compelling

and so historically interesting. So, it's not a question of why we are doing this story, but why wouldn't we, and it's an amazing privilege to be here."

The news crew of four spent Feb. 25 shooting footage and interviewing personnel at the 9th Physiological Support Squadron, flight line and various locations around the base in preparation for what was originally planned to be a live broadcast on the following day.

"Good Morning America" ran the four-minute piece March 7.

What Pflum and the news crew hope to convey to viewers is multifold in purpose.

"Obviously it's topical because of the flyovers right now going on in Iraq, and how the U-2 is still being utilized to this day through U.N. resolutions," said Pflum. "We're hoping to tell our viewers more about the technology that is being

used to help us better understand what's going on in Iraq, and also to help people better understand so much of what we are hearing in the news right now is about new technology."

The crew began the first day of filming by taping portions of a U-2 pilot suiting up at PSPTS for a high-flight, along with shots of a U-2 take-off and landing from the front seat of a mobile chase car.

Several commanders were also interviewed throughout the day and spoke of how the U-2 contributes during war-fighting situations and its evolution throughout history.

"We wanted to approach this story because this old model airplane obviously has been updated, and we want to let people know that it's weathered the storm," said Pflum. "I also think people are always interested in where some of their tax-paying dollars are going, and the U-2 is an amazing legacy."

The crew spent the next day shooting additional footage around the flight line to round out the piece. Pflum is confident that this story will evoke a positive response from the American public.

"When I was with CNN in 1998, we did a story on the U-2 and I was amazed at the number of responses we received to that story," said Pflum. "People love the U-2: Male, female, old and young, it's just an amazing story."

## U-2 Dragon Lady Facts

**Mission:** To provide continuous day and night, high-altitude, all-weather surveillance and reconnaissance.

**Features:** The U-2 is a single-seat, single engine, high-altitude, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft. The aircraft is capable of collecting multi-sensor photo, electro-optic, infrared and radar imagery, as well as collecting signals intelligence data

# 2nd Air Division members dedicate museum

## USAAF library to continue warrior legacy

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Glory Smith  
100<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**RAF MILDENHALL, UK**—Although it's been 60 years since the anniversary of the "Mighty Eighth's" arrival to the United Kingdom, people don't have to go far to relive the memories and stories about what it was like here during World War II. One of the best resources to learn and relive the history of the U.S. Army Air Forces in the UK is the 2nd Air Division, USAAF Memorial Library in Norwich, about an hours drive from Mildenhall.

Veterans of the 2nd Air

"This memorial must be a spiritually living thing. The deep and sacred feeling giving birth to this memorial—'our comrades' spirit of youth, hope and a desire for a world of decency, freedom and peace—must live on, must imbue this memorial with that same sacred spirit dedicated to oncoming generations whose way of life they died to protect," voiced Lt. Gen. W. E. Kepner, commander, 2nd AD, USAAF 1944 to 1945.

After nearly 20 years of dreaming and planning, "Their American Memorial Library was born—

opened and installed the Roll of Honour in Norfolk June 13, 1963.

Listing the names of more than 6,700 Americans who died flying from the airfields in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, one page of the Roll of Honour turns each day.

"The Roll of Honour demonstrates the relation East Anglia and the United States formed during the War," explained Hastings.

"We can never ever repay the debt we owe to you. Had the 8th Air Force not come, I don't think

we'd be here today. They were so nice, and we built tremendously strong ties."

The fruits of this establishment have brought many new relationships. Hastings, due

to his unique position within the memorial, serves as an honorary commander at RAF Mildenhall.

"As chairman of the 2nd Air Division, I am able to continue the wonderful links we have with the U.S. Air Force," said Hastings. "It's a two part thing, I enjoy Mildenhall and my host commander (Lt. Col. Chevalier Cleaves, 351st Air Refueling Squadron) is able to get involved here.

"They came as friends, they stayed as friends, they have remained friends ... and we and future generations will always remember them with pride and affection," reads a poem found in the memorial's official opening program.

The library's book collection covers nearly every facet of American life and history. It retains books that cannot be found anywhere else, said



photos by 2nd Lt. Glory Smith

*A place to relax: One of the museum's customers takes the opportunity to have a seat in the library and read one of the new books. The American Memorial Library was created by airmen of the 2nd Air Division U.S. Army Air Forces, who wanted the ideals they fought for to live on.*



*A library patron browses through one of the many shelves in the library.*

Division, USAAF, transformed a unique vision into reality when their living memorial was built in East Anglia after their service in World War II.

the only one of its kind in the world," said David Hastings, chairman, Memorial Trust of the 2nd AD USAAF.

The Memorial Library of the 2nd AD USAAF officially

● See **MUSEUM**, pg 12

● **BEST cont., from page 6**

**First Sergeant of the Year**

—Master Sgt. Jimmy Williams, 5<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, Minot AFB, N.D. As first sergeant for the 441-person unit,



Williams has led the squadron to unparalleled success. During his tenure, the squadron has won Air Combat Command's Outstanding Large Security Forces Unit Award, and garnered two "Outstanding" and five "Excellent" unit ratings during an ACC Nuclear Surety Inspection. Williams' focus on "troops first" has led to him establishing the unit's Airman's Council, turning the "worst" dormitory on base to the "Dormitory of the Quarter," and aggressively managing and resolving pay issues for more than 70 personnel. Small has been awarded an Associates Degree in Logistics Management and has been certified as a domestic violence crisis center crisis line counselor. He is president of the Minot's First Sergeant's council, chairperson of Operation Warmheart, senior member of Minot's

Airmen Against Drunk Driving program and Minot's President's council leader.

**Junior Civilian of the Year (GS-8 and below)**

—Kelly Kay, 55<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron, Offutt AFB, Neb. As a pharmacy technician, Kay was chosen as Offutt's 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Junior Civilian of the



Pharmacy Technician of the Month awards and helped contribute to Offutt's selection as ACC Pharmacy of the Year for 2002. She single-handedly refilled 600 prescriptions per week, while maintaining an incredible 99.97 percent accuracy rate – surpassing the Air Force standard of 99.95 percent. She was also instrumental in maintaining service during a tumultuous four-month satellite pharmacy construction project, leading a crew of three to process almost 2,000 refills while maintaining a 100 percent accuracy rate. Kay is also a certified Emergency Medical Technician, a master sergeant in the Air Force Reserves and a local volunteer Fire Department ambulance captain.

**Senior Civilian of the Year (GS-9 and above)**

—Susan Viereck, 544<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Group, Peterson AFB, Colo. A senior Information Analyst, Viereck was hand-selected as the first civilian in the 566<sup>th</sup>



Information Operation Squadron's history to be the assistant flight commander, providing leadership and mentorship to more than 60 officers, NCOs and civilians. Because of her unparalleled analytic skills, she was the by-name choice for a Central Command working group, outlining personal communications systems in the area, providing key targeting insight. Viereck also supported the Northern Command's Homeland Defense mission by providing data on suspected terrorist vessels, placing them on a high interest list used to coordinate surveillance and boarding operations.

Heavily involved in the community, she is also a member of the Officer and Civilian Council, a bilingual tutor, a translator for Spanish-speaking parents and Sunday school teacher.

**Minot couple selected as ACC O'Malley award nominees**

**By Capt. Regi Winchester**  
*Minot Air Force Base Public Affairs*

**MINOTAIRFORCEBASE, N. D.** --Air Combat Command announced that Col. Kevin Kennedy, 5th Bomb Wing commander, and his wife, Allison, are the ACC nominees for the 2003 General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The O'Malley Award recognizes the wing commander and spouse team whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive

leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

The Kennedys captured the ACC-level nomination after going against eight other bases in 8th Air Force and 16 other bases in ACC. According to a message on behalf of the ACC commander, Gen. Hal Hornburg, competition among the commanders was close, and the Kennedy's were commended for their efforts in making an impact in the lives of the men and women of the 5th Bomb Wing.

The couple will now go forward to compete at Air Force-

level in the final selection process.

Kennedy has been the commander at the 5th Bomb Wing since December 2001, and during the first year of his tenure, he orchestrated the preparation for, and then led the wing's largest deployment since Vietnam for AEF 5/6 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While deployed for 110 days as the commander of the 40th Air Expeditionary Wing, he led the wing to a 99 percent mission effectiveness rate and saw his wing launch more than 100 combat sorties, providing 1,500

hours of close air support to ground troops.

Allison is an active supporter of the base Thrift Shop, Airman's Attic, and both the officer and enlisted spouses groups. With larger deployments hitting the base than ever before, Allison became a driving force behind a program to educate family members on potential reunion pitfalls for redeployments.

Together, the Kennedys' accomplishments and contributions to the 5th BW from January to December 2002 earned them the ACC nomination.

## STEPping up!



photo by Staff Sgt. Denise Rayder

Staff Sgt. Melissa Center, 608th Air Support Squadron (center) reacts with surprise as she is STEP promoted to technical sergeant by Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ledoux, 8th Air Force command chief. Carlson presented Center her fifth stripe March 14 during commander's call.

## Commander pays visit to "Team Whiteman"

By Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Nick Martin  
509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Mighty Eighth's top leader visited here March 10-11 to survey the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing's warfighting capability and operational readiness.

"The Air Force's mission is to fly and fight; this is where it gets done. Whiteman is where the rubber meets the road," said Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander.

As part of the capability and readiness survey, Carlson received a B-2 update, Joint Direct Attack Munitions briefing, a low-observable maintenance demonstration and an alternate high frequency material briefing and tour.

"The Air Force is changing. The idea of long-range

strike is becoming more and more important and this wing is at the heart of that mission," he said.

During Carlson's tour, he met with students from the First-Term Airmen Center and members of the airmen's council for breakfast. He emphasized the importance of every airman to the Air Force's mission.

"The mission here is one of critical importance. The 509<sup>th</sup> is a very impressive organization. They are part of America's first team and I'm proud of them," he said.

The general also re-enlisted 20 troops and presented the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Thomas N. Barnes Award for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Outstanding Crew Chief of the Year Award to Staff Sgt. Billy Jack Roberts, 509<sup>th</sup> Aircraft



photo by Technical Sgt. Mike Nixon

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, reads the messages written on a Joint Directional Attack Munition in the belly of the "Spirit of Pennsylvania." Col. Doug Raaberg, 509<sup>th</sup> BW commander, and Airman 1st Class Joshua Varga, 509<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (far right), look on.

Maintenance Squadron.

"The 509<sup>th</sup> and the rest of the team are an integral part of the Air Force mission.

The 509<sup>th</sup> is going to be an important part of whatever the Air Force does for a long time in the future," he said.

# CSAF approves new concept in network operations

## 8th Air Force to house AFNOSC

By 1st Lt. Reid Novotny,  
1st Lt. James Hudson,  
and 2nd Lt. Steven Pressley

Headquarters Eighth Air Force

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.**—The Air Force Chief of Staff approved a new concept in network operations and security during the annual Network Operations and Security Center Conference, held here Feb. 25-28.

The AFNOSC is the next evolution in how the Air Force commands and controls computer network operations. It will enable the Air Force to maintain its Information Superiority by giving the Air Force one organization to control and direct both the Service-specific and Joint Component responsibilities.

The Air Force has always been on the cutting edge of enterprise network operations and computer network defense. We have great organizations and organizational structures that keep us abreast of these rapidly evolving mission areas.

Currently, the Air Force Computer Emergency Response Team directs the defense of the enterprise while the Air Force Network Operations Center enables information flow. Network Operations and Security Centers and Network Control Centers, both in garrison and deployed, round out this team by building, sustaining and protecting the networks within their areas of responsibility.

The Air Force requires an integrated command and control structure to unite NOSCs, NCCs, and other organizations, develop proactive strategies, and direct/coordinate time critical response to achieve and

maintain information superiority throughout the full spectrum of military operations.

This is where the Air Force Network Operations and Security Center will enter the fight.

The enterprise is a loose confederation of in-garrison and deployed networks where numerous entities affect or deliver network policies and capabilities.

While the confederation works surprisingly well, there is wide recognition that some form of formal, centralized C2 is required.

Past reorganization attempts to centralize C2 floundered because the mission effectiveness of AFNOC and AFCERT suffered if they were removed from their support organizations and current locations.

This latest proposal is different in that it differentiates between Service-specific Electronic Network Operation and Joint/Component Computer Network Defense responsibilities.

In doing so, it focuses on establishing appropriate command relationships, not on reorganization.

The Commander of Air Force Forces- CNO Operations Center started with a small number of communications officers and enlisted personnel taken from the manning of the 608th Air Communications Squadron. We recently increased our dedicated personnel from 10 to 18, expanded our operating hours from 8 hours a day to 14, and increased our communications ability with the purchase of over \$300,000 in equipment. A state-of-the-art, 1,500 square foot operations center is being designed for the new 8th AF headquarters building.

For further information about the AFNOSC, email [comaffor-cno.opscenter@barksdale.af.mil](mailto:comaffor-cno.opscenter@barksdale.af.mil) or call DSN 781-1043.

### ● MUSEUM, from page 9

Hastings. Accompanying these books are video and oral history collections.

“We hold the finest collection of archives from the Air War in Britain—everything from targets to parachutes, as well as interactive videos,” said Hastings.

The archives emerged as the only surviving pieces from a fire that destroyed the original library in August 1994.

In the aftermath of the devastation, a £60 million project built a new complex in place of the old, in which the library is housed with twice the space as before the fire. Another unique feature, the 2nd AD Memorial Library is the only one in Europe to host an American Fulbright Scholar Librarian.

The library’s current Fulbright Librarian, Tahitia Orr of Alaska, said she works closely with nearby schools.

Playing a critical role in educating the younger British generation on the role of American servicemen and the British people of East Anglia during World War II, Orr instructs and leads the children in war-remembrance art and writing.

The trust works closely with several organizations to promote Anglo/American relations, including government establishments, institutions of learning—American and British and museums.

### *Great story idea?*

*Don't keep it to yourself!*

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*Everyone's got a story to tell!*