



News Briefs

Tax statements online

Tax statements are now posted on myPay for Army, Navy and Air Force Reserve, Department of Defense and Department of Energy civilian employees, military annuitants and military retirees.

Air Force active-duty members will have their statements posted no earlier than Jan. 16, but no later than Jan. 26.

Employees can view their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance call myPay customer support toll-free at (800) 390.2348.

How can we help?

Authorized AAFES customers can buy a 550-unit calling card or an AAFES gift certificate and mail it to deployed service members. It's quicker than sending a care package and a gift certificate ensures the troops can purchase what they need.

Unauthorized customers, such as local civic or church groups can participate in AAFES' Gifts from the Homefront program. These commercial gift certificates can be bought by anyone and redeemed by authorized customers at any post or base exchange.

Gifts from the Homefront are available at aafes.com or by calling 877.770.4438.

B-r-r-r-r!



MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — Senior Airman Zachary Miller closes an ice-encrusted cowling panel on a B-52H Stratofortress. Temperatures here recently averaged minus 20 degrees with wind chill. Miller is assigned to the base's 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Rich)

70th Intelligence Wing gains new commander

By TSgt. Kristina Brown

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. -- Col. Fred W. Gortler assumed command of the 70th Intelligence Wing from Col. James O. Poss in a ceremony here Jan. 15. The presiding officer for the ceremony was 8th Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson.

As the presiding officer, the general said a few words about the wing and its incoming and outgoing commanders. "Under the leadership of Jim Poss, you've continued to revolutionize the Air Force signals intelligence mission, and you were ready when it mattered most in time of war," he said. "You can all be justifiably proud of the role you played in one of the most intelligence-intensive wars in the history of our nation – Operation Iraqi Freedom ... When all was said and done, the 70th directly contributed to the damage or destruction of 95 percent of Iraqi air defenses."

After recounting some of the wing's accomplishments during Colonel Poss' command, the general affirmed his confidence in the wing's future operations under Colonel Gortler's leadership. "I know the 70th will continue to build on its reputation for providing the right information to the right people at the right time," said General Carlson.

Before presenting Colonel Poss with the Legion of Merit medal and performing the change of command,

the general again praised the wing for its efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom saying, "Thanks in part to the tremendous efforts of this wing, Saddam Hussein is out of business, and 25 million Iraqi people are free of an oppressive dictator."

Colonel Gortler comes to the 70th from the 373d Intelligence Group at Misawa Air Base, Japan, where he commanded both the 373d IG and the Misawa Security Operations Center.

As he took to the podium, Colonel Gortler first affirmed his dedication to the men and women of the 70th IW. "The Air Force has invested heavily in the Gortler family, and we are prepared and committed to serving the warriors and extended family of the 70th," he said. Colonel Gortler went on to stress how vital the wing's intelligence mission is.

"The last few years have truly tested America. And now, perhaps more than any other time, our nation and our Air Force place an extremely high premium on precise intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to protect our values, our homes and our families – those we hold dearest ..." said Colonel Gortler.



Colonel Gortler

Congratulations to Eric Beene, 608th Air Operations Group, and Patricia Hoffman, 608th Combat Operations Squadron, for their selection to Colonel.



Making history

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, MO. — Navy Lt. Michael Orr, 394th Combat Training Squadron, finished his first B-2 flight Tuesday. His daughter, Caroline, and Capt. Jared Kennish, 394th CTS, congratulate Lieutenant Orr after the five-hour training sortie in the Spirit of Texas. Lieutenant Orr is the first naval pilot to fly the B-2. (Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements)

Core values not cliché, but a way of life

By Col. Brian E. Kistner

376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyz Republic (AFPN) — Most of us encounter situations in life we do not always agree with. Positive results can stem from how we respond to these situations. All of us in the Armed Forces have a sacred duty to adhere to the highest standards of military conduct. We have a wide range of choices; from turning a blind eye and doing nothing to confronting situations head on and ensuring we adhere to standards.

Whatever the case, rules and standards must be adhered to at all costs. They form the backbone for our acceptable way of life. Just about everywhere you look, there are rules and standards to be followed to effectively meet an end.

In the military, and the Air Force in particular, without standards we become just another segment of society versus the most trusted segment of society.

Without our high standards, we would, not be able to prosecute the nation's wars.

To help avoid confusion, the Air Force adopted three core values that spell out what we are all about: integrity first, excellence in all we do and service before self. These values are not cliché; they are the basic common values that enable people in the United States Air Force to perform the mission.

Of these values, integrity must be first, for without integrity we have nothing. We must always strive to do the right things for the right reasons. We must all know we can trust the person to the right and to the left of us to be forthright and to watch our back in a fight.

Our countrymen have put a great deal of faith in us to take the moral high ground when defending our country.

We are called on to fight and win the wars that guarantee our freedoms.

As an armed force, Americans require much from us and we must be prepared to deliver. We have to give our personal best and be cognizant of how we conduct ourselves.

Adherence to standards does not require a super human effort that does not allow for mistakes. Rather, adherence requires an honest straightforward approach and the best effort we can put forward.

Doing the right things for the right reasons means

simply, when presented with a tough decision, confronting the situation head on and doing what is right even when it is uncomfortable.

When faced with misbehavior by a subordinate, for example, it might be easier to

turn a blind eye and do nothing vs. administering the tough justice our profession requires.

This situation quickly becomes an integrity issue and one that has far reaching implications. When the chips are down, people will fail to do what is right if we do not hold them to this same standard in performing their daily duties. When we fail to do the right thing, the repercussions are far reaching because in the profession of arms we all potentially may be faced with life and death decisions.

If we allow complacency and inaction to erode the fabric of our military through the lack of adherence to standards and our core values, then we threaten the very existence of the institution we hold so dear and the rest of the Nation relies upon so heavily to fight and win wars.

Standards and core values aren't cliché. They are what set us apart from the rest of society and what make us the best most trusted air and space force in the world.

Adherence to standards does not require a super human effort that does not allow for mistakes.

The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

Editorial content of The **Mighty Eighth Voice** is edited, prepared and provided by the 8th Air Force Public Affairs office, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. All photographs are official Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The contents of The **Mighty Eighth Voice** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force. The **Mighty Eighth Voice** is a monthly publication. People may submit suggestions for stories by calling the Public Affairs Office at ext. 6-2156 or DSN 781-2156.



Eighth Air Force Commander
Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Denise Kerr

Deputy Chief, Public Affairs and Editor
2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau

Local Tuskegee Airman chapter seeks your support

By Maj. Rod Haley

8th Air Force

Due to the rigid pattern of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, 966 Black military aviators were trained at an isolated training complex near the town of Tuskegee, Alabama, and at Tuskegee Institute (now called Tuskegee University).

Four hundred and fifty Black fighter pilots under the command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., (who was later to become the U.S. Air Force's first black lieutenant general) fought in the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily, and Europe flying, in succession, P-40, P-39, P-47, and P-51 type aircraft. These gallant men flew 15,553 sorties and completed 1,578 missions with the 12th Tactical U.S. Army Air Force and the 15th Strategic U.S. Army Air Force.

The Germans, who both feared and respected these heroes, called them "Schwartzte Vogelmenschen" (Black Birdmen). White American bomber crews reverently referred to them as "The Black Redtail Angels" because of the identifying red paint on their tail assemblies and because of their reputation for not losing any bomber to enemy fighters as they provided fighter escort to bombing missions over strategic targets in Europe.

The 99th Fighter Squadron, which had already distinguished itself over North Africa, Sicily, and Anzio, was joined with three more Black squadrons: the 100th, the 301st, and the 302nd, to be designated as the 332nd Fighter Group.

From Italian bases they also destroyed enemy rail traffic, coast watching surveillance stations and hundreds of vehicles on air to ground strafing missions. Sixty-six pilots of

the 332nd Fighter Group were killed in aerial combat while another thirty-two were shot down and captured as prisoners of war.

These Black Airmen came home with 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Legions of Merit, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, the Croix DeGuerre, and the Red Star of Yugoslavia. Their success and achievement is evidenced by the elevation of three of these pioneers to flag rank: the late General Daniel "Chappie" James, our nation's first Black four star general, the late General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., and Major General Lucius Theus, USAF, retired.

The sacrifices made by the Airmen and support personnel during the "Tuskegee Experiment," should never be forgotten.

Nearly thirty years of anonymity ended in 1972 with the founding of the Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated at Detroit, Michigan.

Organized as a non-political, non-military and non-profit national entity, the TAI mission is to inspire young people to outstanding achievement and leadership in our democratic society through social and educational activities.

With forty-six chapters located in major cities throughout the United States, Japan and Germany, the membership of TAI is made up, principally, of armed forces veterans and active duty personnel representing all branches of the military. It also includes a growing number of civilians who demonstrate a sincere interest in enhancing the goals and objectives of the organization.

The local chapter in Shreveport, LA at Barksdale AFB recently became the 46th chartered chapter of TAI.

Our mission statement is: To bring together in a spirit of friendship and goodwill everyone who shares in the successes of the people who pioneered military aviation throughout the Tuskegee Airmen experience; to foster recognition of and preserve the history of African-American achievements in the military; to inspire, motivate, and provide means for young men and women to pursue endeavors in aviation and other Air Force career fields; to establish a channel of contact for TAI members and all those seeking knowledge of African-American military and aviation achievements.

Our goals are to increase local and community awareness and establish a mentoring program.

We will increase community awareness of the Tuskegee Airmen by: inspiring young people to outstanding achievement and leadership through social and educational activities such as our Youth in Aviation program; developing effective internal and external communication for members and community by publishing a quarterly newsletter along with maintaining a Chapter web site; and eventually giving local scholarships to deserving high school students.

We will establish a mentoring program to: promote personal and professional development through mentorship, communication, education, and training; and ensure each mentor/mentoree jointly develop a career plan to assist the mentoree with developing paths to accomplish career goals.

If you are interesting in joining the local TAI, please contact me at 318-456-2845/DSN 781-2845 or Capt Candice Pipes at 318-456-2345/DSN 781-2345.

Aerospace Warrior Attitude



Airman Adler Pierre

Assignment: 8 AF Commander's Support Staff

Years of service: 6 months

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Family: Parents and older sister and younger brother

Job title: Personnel apprentice

Primary duties and responsibilities: Right now I'm in training. I'm learning how to process documents such as inprocessing/outprocessing paperwork, weigh-ins, enlisted performance reports and more.

Most rewarding job aspect: Being able to help all members of the Air Force, regardless of rank

Goals: To be a pediatrician in 10 years

Hobbies: Playing basketball and working out

I'm most proud of: Tupac Shakur because of the way he lived his life and the struggles he overcame. He spoke out about violence in his community, poverty, etc. He could rap about fun things and then he could speak about something close to his heart. I see a lot of myself in Tupac and I admire the words and messages in his music. My favorite saying of his is, "Only God can judge me."

My best asset: My personality

Favorite aspects of Barksdale: The weather

Eighth Air Force Salutes...

Bronze Star

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Col. Thomas Schrader | 8 AF Information Operations |
| Col. Jeffry Smith | 608th Air Operations Group |
| Lt. Col. Robert Morris | 8th Information Warfare Flight |
| Lt. Col. Kenneth Portis | 608th Combat Operations Squadron |

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Col. Patrick Larkin | 8th AF Safety |
|---------------------|---------------|

Meritorious Service Medal

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Capt. Sean Coveney | 8th AF Standardization/Evaluation |
| Master Sgt. Timothy Justmann | 608th Air Support Squadron |
| Master Sgt. Jimmie C. Ray Jr. (1st OLC) | 608th Air Communications Squadron |
| Master Sgt. Samuel Viniard | 608th ASPTS |
| Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Westerman | 8th AF Protocol |

Joint Service Commendation Medal

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Master Sgt. William Parson | 8th AF Commander's Action Group |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|

Welcome to the "Mighty Eighth"

The following people joined the Headquarters 8th Air Force team between Nov. 3, 2003 - Jan. 8, 2004:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maj. Jeffrey Alexander | 608th Combat Plans Squadron |
| Senior Airman Jason Barlow | 26th Operational Weather Squadron |
| Master Sgt. Hubert Brantly | 608th Air Intelligence Squadron |
| Maj. Richard Brull | 608th AIS |
| Airman Jin-Soo Byun | 608th Air Communications Squadron |
| 1st Lt. Brian Crooks | 608th ACS |
| Senior Airman Kevin Davis | 608th ACS |
| Airman 1st Class Daniel Dickerson | 608th ACS |
| Lt. Col. Alan Dorward | 8 AF HQ ANG Advisor |
| 1st Lt. Raymond Hale | 608th ACS |
| Tech. Sgt. Allan Haltom | 8th Information Warfare Flight |
| Staff Sgt. Martin Jackson | 608th ACS |
| Airman 1st Class Andrew Kampa | 608th AIS |
| Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Kephart | 608th ACS |
| Maj. James Lange | 608th Combat Operations Squadron |
| Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Moses | Task Force 204 |
| Master Sgt. Robert Nelson | 608th ACS |
| Staff Sgt. Tyryne Nichols | 608th CPS |
| Capt. Nathan Paddock | 608th ACS |
| Staff Sgt. George Peppinger | 608th ACS |
| Airman Adler Pierre | 8th AF Commander Support Staff |
| Lt. Col. Bruce Postell | 608th CPS |
| Staff Sgt. Timothy Privitt | 608th ACS |
| Senior Airman Ruby Rump | 608th COS |
| Airman 1st Class Kristoffer Scott | 608th ACS |
| Tech. Sgt. David Skrine | 608th ACS |
| Staff Sgt. Eric Thompson | 608th ACS |
| Master Sgt. Clifford Weller | 26th OWS |
| Senior Airman Kanika Wilson | 608th AIS |



Wilderness Challenge

552 ACW member roughs it at 2-day adventure

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Taylor
552nd Air Control Wing Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- I attended the third annual Department of Defense Wilderness Challenge for active duty military in the Appalachian Mountains, Fayetteville, W. Va., Oct. 2 to 4. The different branches of the armed services came together to compete against each other with their strength, speed and endurance in a two-day outdoor adventure.

An Air Force team, The Warren Warriors, Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. came in first place; the Marines came in second and third. Second place was awarded to Trial and Error, Camp Lejuene, N.C., and third place went to Not of Sound Mind, Camp Lejuene, N.C.

My unique team, the Miazziz Dragons, came from three Air Force bases from three states.

Our team captain, Matt Nelms, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, attended the 2002 Wilderness Challenge and knew he would create a team to compete in 2003. Clay Humphreys came from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., and Amy Gose and myself drove from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

"There's just something about combining two days of competition, camaraderie, and the wild of West Virginia that leaves one question in your mind - how long until next year's Wilderness Challenge?" commented Nelms. "One of the greatest things about taking a team to compete is the preparation before hand. It doesn't have to feel like

exercise when you train with a purpose."

Day one

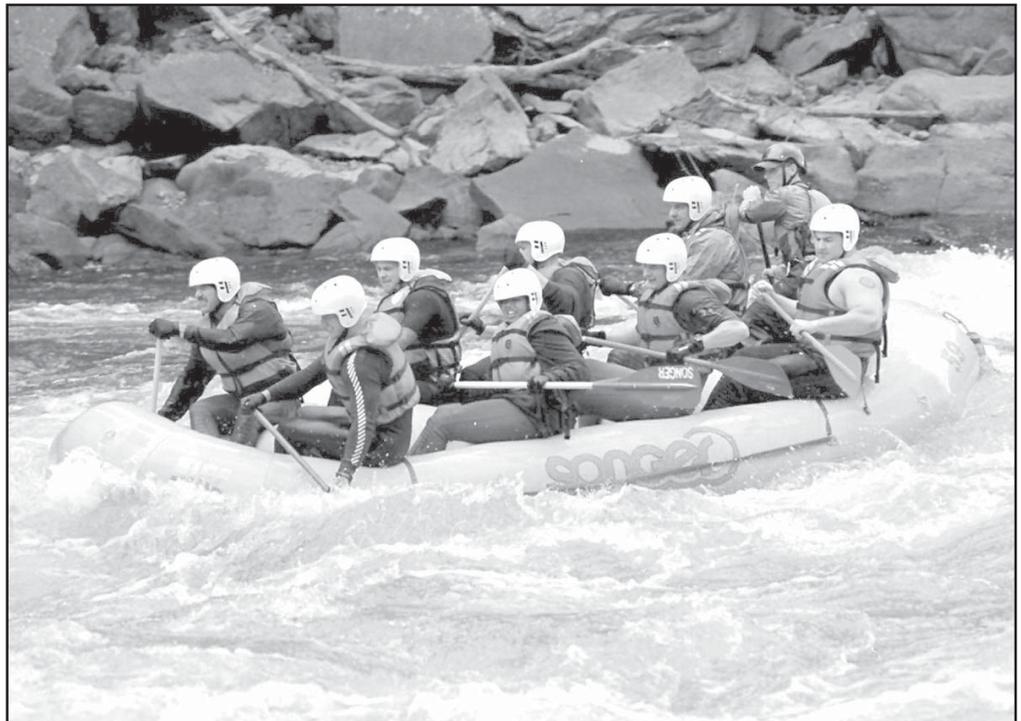
The competition began with an 8-kilometer run in 26-degree Fahrenheit weather through the rugged terrain of the Appalachian Mountains. Most of the run was on flat land, however, there was a half-mile drop through rocks, mud and slick ground.

Immediately following the run, we changed into wet suits, life jackets and helmets to prepare for the 13-mile Whitewater raft race. Before we could begin the race, one team member had to swim half a mile through the chilly water to the raft.

Humphreys was our lucky

● See Challenge , page 7

Wilderness Challenge is a series of outdoor adventure races designed to test the endurance, strength and speed of the competitors over a two-day period in the West Virginia mountains. (Courtesy photos)



● *Challenge, from page 6*

swimmer and made swift time to our raft. We pulled him aboard and began the journey down the Lower Gauley River with more than 35 rapids, some reaching the five plus category. Rapids are rated between 1 and 6; one being the easiest and six being very difficult. After an exhausting two hours and 15 minutes, my team crossed the finish line, pumped and ready to go for the next day.

Day two

We convened at 6 a.m. in the cold rain to mountain bike 10 miles through intense hills, mud puddles and wet trails.

The rain softened the ground so much that two members of my team fell. I was the first. A person tried to pass me and in the process, my front tire jack-knifed in the slick path.

My bike came to a sudden halt and I flew over my handlebars onto the rocky path. My teammate encouraged me get up.

I untangled my bike and proceeded to embrace the trails.

Gose was the second to crash. She heard someone calling for help behind her and she turned her head ... bad idea. Her tires slid in the mud and she toppled to the right with her bike on top of her. We made it to the finish line and quickly prepared for the next event: a 7-mile duckie race.

A duckie resembles a raft, canoe and kayak all-in-one and paddled with double edge paddles. Technique in this event is very important.

There are two people per duckie, the person in the front paddles constantly and the person in the back does a combination of paddling



Miazziz Dragons team members are (left to right): Clay Humphreys, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; Amy Gose and Jennifer Taylor, Tinker AFB, Okla.; and Matt Nelms, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

and steering. We were warned ahead of time about some of the rapids, and we were shown how to flip the duckie back over if it flipped.

flipped the duckie right side up, pulled ourselves back into it and finished the race.

It was time for the last event, a 14 mile forced hike.

After a quick change and a bite to eat, my team was prepared to start the hike. The first eight miles were up hill and in a light rain.

The trails were slick, but nothing like the mudslide that was created on the bike path. It was at the eight-mile checkpoint that my left knee gave out on me, and I had to call it quits.

My team completed the remaining six-mile without me downhill. I watched my exhausted teammates climb the last steps to the finish line with smiles on their faces.

"I had an incredible sense of accomplishment and have never been so happy to see a finish line in my life," remarked Gose. "Ever."

All in all, the 2003 Wilderness Challenge was a great experience and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

The rest of my team agreed. When asked if he planned on going back next year, Humphreys replied, "Without a doubt."

Gose was the second to crash. She heard someone calling for help behind her and she turned her head ... bad idea.

Pretty far into the race, I saw some serious rapids ahead. I noticed overturned duckies in front of me, including my teammates, but no people. I yelled back to my teammate, "Here it comes!"

We made it through some tough rapids, and both of us thought we were in the clear until our duckie went down into a rapid, and a wave plowed into us.

The next thing I remember was being sucked in the undertow and thinking to myself, "Hold onto the duckie." We popped to the surface,

Fairways and flight suits

JSTARS member hits a hole in one in the game of life

By Airman 1st Class Tim Beckham
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- What do a flight suit, a bag of golf clubs and a championship trophy have in common? Give up? They all belong to one JSTARS crewmember.

First Lt. Amy Rongey, an air battle manager for the 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, was recently awarded first place in the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) World Military Golf Championship in Jacksonville, Fla.

Rongey beat out fellow American, Angela Baskette, and South African native, Karen Watts, in a sudden death playoff hole to claim victory in the 55-military member international tournament.

"Winning the CISM tournament felt awesome, of course, and being interviewed by the Golf Channel was great," said Rongey. "I also really enjoyed the off-course time spent with the other international players." While Rongey was on her championship run she had many great moments, but said one stood out above the rest.

"The defining moment came on the sudden-death hole," said Rongey. "I was chipping from the bunker and my shot landed on the green about 10 feet from the hole. I was the only one putting for birdie and when I made the putt I knew I had won."

Rongey, who joined the military in 1997, and was commissioned in 2000, has goals for both her golfing and military career.

She said her golfing goals include winning next season's program and becoming a repeat champion, while her career goals include attending weapons school at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Rongey has been playing golf since age 11, and said she and her brother spent the majority of their childhood summers on the golf course.

"It's just something I love to do," said Rongey. "You get to be outside all day and it's a great way to meet new people that you otherwise wouldn't get to meet."

Between her father, her coaches and her idols, Rongey had many positive influences throughout her life. "I looked up to professional golfer Nancy



First Lt. Amy Rongey, 16th Airborne Command and Control Squadron air battle manager, gets ready for a repeat championship by practicing her diving and putting at the base golf course Dec. 3. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tim Beckham)

Lopez, she always had a great attitude even when she was playing bad," said Rongey. "My college coach, Bill Branch, instilled that same mentality of 'show no emotion' in me and my dad gave me confidence. He (Rongey's dad) taught me to just be confident and play the game. It doesn't matter who you're playing with or what they play like, but to just play my game."

Although Rongey doesn't have the time to play golf as much as she would like, trying to balance both work and family, she still remains dedicated to her military career.

"My military career comes first," said Rongey. "I have always had a sense of duty to serve in the military. If golf came first to me, I wouldn't be in the military."

"Amy's accomplishment, although an individual one, makes everyone in the 116th proud to call her one of our own," said Col. Tom Lynn, 116th Air Control Wing commander.

"I appreciate having the opportunity to do these things," said Rongey. "I spent five years trying to find out about the program. It's nice that my squadron let me go and I really appreciate the support they have given me. I received calls from my squadron commander and the wing commander congratulating me on my golf achievements."