

The MIGHTY EIGHTH VOICE



Published for the members of Eighth Air Force

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8th Air Force
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News Briefs

O-5 Selection

Congratulations to the following lieutenant colonel selects :

Marcus Boyd	8 AF/OV
Doug Kleist	8 AF/OV
Carol Northrup	608 AIS

Promotion study list available

Promotion-eligible enlisted people can now find out which materials to study for the 2004 testing cycles. The most current Weighted Airman Promotion System catalog, which lists the materials used by test writers to develop the 2004 promotion tests, is now available on the Air Force Personnel Center website.

Go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/testing for more information.

Fitness test details

The new Air Force fitness test will include a 1.5 mile timed run, a muscular-fitness test of push-ups and crunches and a body composition test. Testing begins Jan. 1, 2004.

Participants can earn up to 50 points on the aerobic portion, 30 points on the body composition portion and 20 on the muscular fitness portion. Total points will place airmen into one of four categories -- 90 or greater is excellent, 75 to 89.9 is good, 70 to 74.9 is marginal and less than 70 is poor.

For more information, see the Air Force Print News article at www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005438.

Final good-byes



Photo by Amn. Trina Flannagan

Maj. Samuel Kang, 608th Combat Operations Squadron, says good-bye to his wife, Christy, and his daughter, Mina, before deploying. Kang, along with more than 100 other 8th Air Force members, deployed Sept. 27 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. See page 4 for more photos.

Hard work pays off

Comm flight earns 2 top ANG awards

By 2nd Lt. Pamela Montelepre
116th ACW Public Affairs

Members of the 116th Communications Flight had a challenging year, but their efforts were rewarded at the National Guard Association of the United States conference in Biloxi, Miss., Sept 17 for their outstanding achievements during 2002.

The flight was awarded the 2003 Air National Guard Outstanding Communications Unit Award, a functional area award given to the best communications flight in the Air National Guard.

The unit was also awarded the 2003 Air National Guard Distinguished Mission Support Plaque, an award given

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Global Influence...Global Responsibility

Don't wait for curve balls, the time is now!

By Chief Master Sgt. Victor Smith
552nd ACW Command Chief Master Sergeant

Life has a way of throwing us curve balls that we don't always see coming. Yet as members of the greatest Air Force in the world, we need to be ready for those curve balls whenever life throws them our way.

Now is the time to prepare ... not tomorrow or a couple of months down the road, but now. We have taken on the responsibility of defending our way of life around the world, anytime and anywhere. Many of us have grown used to our roles as road warriors and some even spend more time on the road than at home. That in itself presents many challenges and can even make garrison life seem mundane. But this is a crucial time for us to ensure stability for our families, our peers and subordinates. The time management skills we use every day at work are also just as important at home -- especially when we are at home.

Now is the time to get caught up on all those things you haven't been at home to do. Months away from home can make for quite a list of "honey do's." Our team does a great job of supporting each other as we deploy; but no one can fix a leaky faucet or the children's toys like Mom or Dad can.

The dividends we reap from doing life's necessities yield timeless benefits for our Air Force family. After all, it's "whole-family" retention we are after. Winning on the

homefront is every bit as important as winning on the battlefield -- not to mention you might get a little uninterrupted time watching the Gators win on TV. Let's not rest on our laurels after the "honey do's" are done, for there is little time to rest as we look to the future.

Now is the time to prepare for



our future in the Air Force. We need to do those things that keep our families safe and worry-free while we're off delivering freedom and democracy.

Prepare by making sure we're in the best of health. Maintaining a regimen of diet and exercise combined with regular health assessments will ensure our fitness to fight and our fitness for life.

Take care of the paperwork our

families need for peace of mind ... wills and virtual MPF emergency data cards. Make sure performance reports are written and filed. Take that college class you've been putting off. Consider distance learning alternatives and CLEP tests as alternate means of obtaining a CCAF degree. Imagine how you'll feel when you hang your degree on the wall next to your PME certificate. You'll have made an investment in your future, your family will beam with pride and your promotion potential will certainly increase.

Now is the time to be with your family. It's easy to fall into the trap of careerism and spending so much time looking up that we forget to look "around" and see the ones who love us most; the ones who'll be with us long after our active-duty Air Force life is over. It's okay to have that "out-of-cycle" birthday for the children or take in a ball game.

Whether it's dinner out or just piddling around reminiscing over old times, make some quality time for your family. You'll be glad you did. It will carry you a long way while you are gone for extended periods. Our Air Force is the best the world has ever known. You are the reason we can back up that claim. You make the difference in each and every day you give America. Freedom isn't easy, and you know all too well the sacrifices it requires. Thank you for your service and remember, now is the time.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

● *Comm, from page 1*

to the top five outstanding ANG mission support squadrons and flights.

These are extremely significant awards considering they were competing against 88 wings in the Air Guard, said Col. Tom Lynn, commander, 116th Air Control Wing.

The flight was recognized for its impact on the successful standup of the U.S. Air Force's first Total Force "blended" wing.

"This award is special because it recognizes our comm flight Total Force team comprised of ANG, active duty, civil service and contract personnel" said Capt. Fred Massey, commander, 116th CF.

"Our team led the way for the trans-

formation of the 93rd Air Control Wing and 116th Bomb Wing into the 116th Air Control Wing...by being the first organization in the wing to physically incorporate people from both sides into one cohesive unit.

"I feel like we helped break down one of the most critical barriers to the blending of the two wings—shared communications and information."

During this process the flight identified the overall communications and information support required for the two organizations to become one war fighting wing. Support included voice, data, and radio networks, information management and assurance and multimedia services.

One of the most significant accomplishments was the addition of 1,700

active duty personnel to the 116th's local area network.

In addition to the "blending" challenges, the flight was able to provide critical deployed ground communication support for Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System operations at Air Warrior and Red Flag exercises at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and deployed JSTARS operations during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"The comm flight has had several obstacles to overcome and it hasn't been easy," said Col. Lois Schmidt, commander, 116th Mission Support Group. "But, they have successfully overcome those obstacles. I am very proud of their accomplishments and dedication to the mission."

509th BW Safety program garners two awards

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 509th Bomb Wing Safety Office was recognized with two annual awards recently.

The National Safety Council Award of Merit was presented to the ground safety flight and the weapons safety flight earned the Air Force Nuclear Surety Plaque.

To receive the NSC Award of Merit, an eligible organization must have a perfect record or a reduction of at least 5 percent in the number of ground mishaps. The composite rate must be better than the Air Force composite rate

for the fiscal year and there must be zero on-duty ground mishap fatalities.

The wing submits annual rates to Air Force headquarters which, in turn, gives them to the NSC, said Master Sgt. Matt Calbreath, 509th BW Ground Safety Office superintendent. The National Safety Council Award of Merit and a letter from the President of the NSC recognize mishap reduction in ground safety.

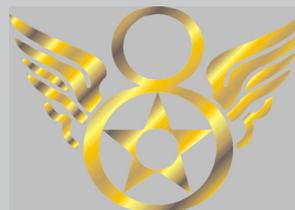
"The weapons safety realm has done very well over the past three or four years," said Lt. Col. Thomas Bussiere, 509th BW chief of safety. "The fact that we haven't had any accidents or mishaps is great."

The U.S. Air Force Nuclear Surety Plaque recognizes organizations below the major command level for outstanding achievements or contributions to the Air Force nuclear weapon system programs.

Bussiere said these are shared awards and reflect the commitment of our squadron safety representatives. "We provide the squadron commanders the tools and information to execute the safety program at their level," he said. "Our job is mishap prevention so we can put bombs on target," said the safety chief. "If a person gets hurt or if we break equipment, (it can) take away from our combat capability."

The "Mighty Eighth" Voice

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Supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

More than 100 8th Air Force members deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Sept. 27.

According to Master Sgt. Colleen Hensley, 608th Air Support Squadron, preparations to get everyone on the plane went well. "The 2nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's Contingency Plans and Training Office developed the processing schedule and arranged the support of the 2nd Bomb Wing personnel -- it was amazing to see the different agencies on base come together to make this a successful deployment," she said.

Senior Airman Lakiesha Walker, an information manager from the 608th Air Operations Group, said she was excited to go on this deployment. "This is my first time deploying and I'm thankful that I get to go with people I know and do a job I know," she said. "This is also a great way to finish off my assignment at the 8th Air Force before I move to Germany."



Second Lt. Caleb Craft, 2nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, performs 100 percent checks on all baggage coming through the deployment line.



Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson talks to the troops before they deploy. Carlson plans to visit the troops and spend Thanksgiving with them.

Photos by Amn. Trina Flannagan



Master Sgt. Colleen Hensley, 608th Air Support Squadron, checks Capt. Arlene Collazo's paperwork before she deploys. Collazo is assigned to the 608th Combat Plans Squadron.

Career advisor wins Air Force award

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

A career assistance advisor assigned with the 552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., received the first Air Force level award for the career field Aug. 21 in Las Vegas, Nev., for his performance and achievements in 2002.

Senior Master Sgt. David Sousa, 552nd ACW Career Assistance Advisor, received the Air Force Career Assistance Advisor of the Year Award. Sousa had only been a career advisor for fifteen months when he was selected to receive this award. He said he was shocked to be chosen out of 92 CAAs in the Air Force.

"We have a lot of great career advisors in the Air Force and we have a great network," Sousa said. "To be selected among this group is an awesome honor."

The award recipient said the award is a reflection of the support he has received from his leadership, co-workers and family.

"I love what I do because I take pride in what I do, but I did not do it alone," said Sousa. "This award is more about the people I serve and work with than it is about me."

Chief Master Sgt. Judy Turner, 72nd Air Base Wing CAA, said she was excited to see her counterpart receive this honor and attributed his success as a success to all.

"Sergeant Sousa is by far the best CAA of the year. He is the most deserving of this award," Chief Turner said. "I couldn't be more happy because [this award] says, in a nutshell, that Team Tinker is the best."

Sousa was hand-picked by Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, to validate the CAA function to Air Force leadership, as well

as train new CAAs around the Air Force. His programs are now operating at 24 bases.

In his time here at Tinker, the career advisor has briefed more than 1,000 newcomers to meet retention standards, and interviewed more than 1,600 military members to get feedback on how to improve retention programs. His work paid off, and in 2002, 26 percent of undecided airmen chose to reenlist in the Air Force instead of separate.

Sousa also implemented a satellite office inside building 230. He said his goal for this program was to provide "one-stop shopping" for information to airmen who were very busy on the

flightline. In less than a year, he answered more than 400 queries as a result of this program.

According to Sousa, people are the Air Force's most important asset. When a person comes in to see him about their career, he said he ensures they receive factual answers, and leave with a better understanding of what the Air Force has to offer.

Sousa said it was his love for helping people that motivated him in his job. "To me, I have the best job in the Air Force," he explained. "I love the opportunity to help people and work with supervisors and give them the tools they need to help them make informed career decisions."



Photo by Airman 1st Class K.L. Kimbrell

Senior Master Sgt. David Sousa, 552nd Air Control Wing career advisor, discusses supervisory tools with Master Sgt. Nolen Moore, 72nd Mission Support Squadron.

Aerospace Warrior Attitude



Tech. Sgt. Diane Hotaling
8th Air Force Personnel
Barksdale AFB, La.

Years of service: 13

Hometown: Bossier City, LA

Family: Husband, Tech. Sgt. Ray Hotaling

Job title: NCOIC, Senior Officer Matters

Primary duties and responsibilities: Provides direct personnel support for the 8 AF commander and vice commander; formulates, manages and provides in-depth analysis for captains' through colonels' management level review and promotion boards, squadron officer school, intermediate developmental/senior education programs and flying squadron commanders' selection boards; drafts and edits executive correspondence and promotion recommendation forms for the 8th AF commander; prepares and manages officer performance reports and records for promotion boards.

Most rewarding job aspect: Working with great people.

Goals: Obtaining my bachelor's degree.

Hobbies: Riding my motorcycle and spending time with my family.

I'm most proud of: My family.

My best asset: My sense of humor.

What motivates your winning attitude: First, my family -- I'm an Air Force 'brat' and have large shoes to fill. Second, all the professionals at 8th Air Force that I get to work with.

Favorite aspects of your base: Barksdale is a beautiful and historical base. The Southern Oaks (trees) on the main base are gorgeous!

Eighth Air Force Salutes...

Quarterly Award Winners for July-September:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Edsel Wooten, 3rd Air Support Operations Group

Senior Noncommissioned Officer

Master Sgt. Joseph Zachariah, 608th Air Communications Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer

Tech. Sgt. Carol Lampkin-Harris, 608th Air Support Squadron

Airmen

Airman First Class Derik Neier, 11th Air Support Operations Group

Airmen of the Month: Airman First Class Spencer Buskirk, 608 ACOMS

Welcome to the "Mighty Eighth"

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

Maj. Reid Langdon, 608th Air Operations Group

Capt. Joshin Lewis, 608th Air Communications Squadron

1st Lt. David Quan, 608 ACOMS

Master Sgt. Greig Gilbert, 608th Air Intelligence Squadron

Master Sgt. Douglas Skelton, 608th Combat Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Gwendolyn Snider, 608 ACOMS

Tech. Sgt. Robert Hutson, 608 ACOMS

Airman First Class Darnell Gillie, 26th Operational Weather Squadron

Late September arrivals:

2nd Lt. Blair Scholl, 26 OWS

Master Sgt. Thoeophilus Ezell, 608 AIS

Want to show family and friends in your hometown significant accomplishments in your career?

Take advantage of the Hometown News Release Program!

Simply fill out a HNR (DD Form 2266), now available electronically, package the form and send it to the Public Affairs office. That's it!

For more information contact the staff at DSN 781-2156.



**Does someone you know
deserve to be "Spotlighted?"**
Call 8th Air Force Public Affairs at
DSN 781-2156, or e-mail us at
8af/pa@barksdale.af.mil



Beale earns 2003 'Omaha' trophy

Trophy recognizes excellence in strategic deterrence

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Beale's reconnaissance mission earned recognition as one of three recipients of the 2003 Omaha Trophy for U.S. Strategic Command's outstanding contributions to strategic deterrence.

The award is given annually to three operational units in the categories of intercontinental ballistic missile command, submarine ballistic missile command, and the original strategic aircraft command.

"It's with great pride I receive this award on behalf of Team Beale and further solidify our continuance to re-define our nation's measure of ISR war fighting competence," said Brig. Gen. Rudy Wright, 9th Reconnaissance

Wing commander.

The competition for the trophies is extraordinarily keen according to Maj. Robert Mayfield, STRATCOM's 2002 Omaha Trophy program manager. He said this makes the selection process difficult due to the quality of the finalists in each of the categories.

Mayfield explained that the STRATCOM selection panel only reviews the best in each category. He said there might be one finalist or multiple finalists per category. The Air Force or Navy "brass" usually determines who those are.

Mayfield said the panel members look for a variety of items in the nomination packages but other than follow-

ing written general competition guidelines, the individual commands competing in each category decide what they want to submit for consideration.

Mayfield said each year a new group of officers, almost always O-6s and above, are selected to comprise the selection panel. Each member represents a different career field bringing a different perspective, personal experience and point of view that they share with other panel members during the selection process. This process ensures the panel's knowledge base is broad enough to encompass as many mission-related aspects of each category as possible.

More than 30 years ago, the citizens of Omaha, Neb., through a special community relations group known as the Strategic Air Command Consultation Committee, wanted to show their appreciation for the vital work being done at the large military base located on their city's southern edge.

Starting in 1971, the citizens' plan was to present an award, or trophy, to the command's best air wing as determined by the SAC commander. The award recognized the hard work of the wing's men and women, normally 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

During the Cold War-era, SAC headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., was the hub of activity in the air leg of America's three-pronged nuclear deterrent triad of air, land and sea forces. SAC evolved into STRATCOM and the command's mission has grown to encompass all of America's defense and deterrence capabilities.

Competition for the aviation award included Air Force bomber units, aerial refueling units, strategic reconnaissance units and Navy airborne strategic command and control units.



Photo by Airman 1st Class LaToya Crawford

Col Darryl Burke, 9th Reconnaissance Wing vice commander, holds up the Omaha Trophy at the presentation ceremony Sept. 22.

A Day of Rememberance for those who have served today and yesterday

By Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson
8th Air Force Commander



BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. – World War I ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1919. Called the “War to end all wars,” World War I was commemorated each Nov. 11, on what was originally called Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day so that Americans could honor all her veterans of military service and overseas conflicts such as: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and other innumerable military operations. This day of remembrance is for ALL veterans – those who HAVE served and those who ARE serving. We pay tribute to yesterday’s and today’s warriors who have sacrificed to bring us the privileges of freedom and democracy.

Just as “those who have gone before” have worn the uniform of our country’s military with honor, today’s airmen are making our nation proud in the war on terrorism and guarding our way of life. At Eighth Air Force, we know the meaning of service before self, with more than 41,000 active-duty, Air National Guard, reserve and civilian employees training and supporting deployments around the world.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Eighth Air Force demonstrated to the world our new operational capability since integrating Information Operations. Global Hawk flew its first reconnaissance mission in combat. Our Combined Air Operations Center experts provided outstanding command and control of the air war. From the B-52s – the oldest weapon systems in the inventory — to our cyber warriors hitting the

enemy with non-kinetic effects, the men and women of Eighth Air Force upheld the finest traditions of this command.

Members of the “Mighty Eighth” provide the power in airpower and lead innovations of how we use technology in air, space and cyberspace today during the global war on terrorism. We are always searching for new ways to combine high-tech information systems with high-tech combat capability, shortening the gap between identifying and targeting enemy forces.

You have done and continue to do an outstanding job. On Veterans Day, know that America honors you and those veterans of prior service who set the Eighth Air Force standard of excellence.

I am extremely proud of you, our current veterans of the “Mighty Eighth,” in your response to our nation’s call. It is a privilege to serve beside you and I thank you and your families for your sacrifices.



Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson

