

Associate PRESS

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Vol. 21, No. 5 ♦ The Home Team ♦ May 1999

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McChord reservists begin taking Anthrax vaccinations

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
♦ Wing Public Affairs

More than 241 aircrew members from the 446th Airlift Wing received the first shot of the much-talked about Anthrax vaccination during the May unit training assemblies. The members of the three airlift squadrons as well as the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron rolled up their sleeves to start the vaccination program that consists of a series of six inoculations over an 18-month period.

Getting the Anthrax vaccination is the same as receiving other protective equipment such as a flak vest.

Alan Mitchell

The Air Force Reserve Command has mandated that all aircrew members, and other specialties that could deploy to Southwest Asia and the Korean Peninsula within 35 days, to start the first series of inoculations by their assigned unit training assembly in June. This is due to the high biological warfare threats in those regions.

The current world threat environment and the unpredictable nature of terrorism make it prudent to include biological warfare defense as part of our force protection planning. The American Medical Association has joined the Department of Defense in declaring Anthrax as the single "most serious" biological threat facing the world today. Anthrax is 99 percent lethal to unprotected individuals exposed to battlefield concentrations of the agent.

The vaccine is FDA-licensed and exhibits less severe side-effects than common im-

munizations also required for mobilization — typhoid, yellow fever etc.

"The anthrax vaccine has been proven and can save lives," said Col. Alan Mitchell, 446th Airlift Wing commander. "I was the first in line to receive the shot. I do have to place people in potentially high-risk situations. Getting the Anthrax vaccination is the same as receiving other protective equipment such as a flak vest. I hope we will never need this equipment, but it's there for our protection."

Eventually, all U.S. military personnel and DOD emergency essential civilians and contractors who travel to Southwest Asia and the Korean Peninsula will receive the anthrax vaccination series. Previously, only personnel deploying for more than 30 days to the high-threat areas were required to



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

Staff Sgt. J.P. Wirth, an aeromedical technician with the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, gets the Anthrax vaccine May 22.

ANTHRAX

Anthrax is an infectious disease that normally afflicts animals, especially cattle and sheep. Anthrax spores can be produced in a dry form which may be stored and ground into particles. When inhaled by humans, these particles cause respiratory failure and death within a week.

begin the series.

The expanded program provides equal protection to all U.S. armed forces members assigned, deployed or on temporary duty in high-threat areas for any length of time. Ideally, members would receive at least the first three of the six-shot series of

▲ See ANTHRAX continued on Page 3

446th Associate Press

Volume 21, No. 5
May 1999

Friday, June 11, is the deadline for articles in the June issue of the

446th Associate Press.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1205, Room 210 by 4 p.m.

Wing Commander

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All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

Wing members continue to gain recognition

By Col. Alan Mitchell
◆ Wing Commander

Many thanks to all of you for the successful and productive Fourth Air Force Staff Assistance Visit in April. They gave us a few emphasis areas to clean up prior to our Air Force Reserve Command Unit Compliance Inspection in October, and they also noted some of our outstanding practices. Your hard work is appreciated by everyone and confirms our wing's long-standing reputation for selfless dedication to readiness and professionalism.

This month, the tradition of national recognition continues with the selection of **Master Sgt Steven Slagle, 446th Aircraft Generation Squadron**, as the Fourth Air Force NCO of the Year and Fourth Air Force's nominee to the Air Force Reserve Command's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition. Just to make it to that level of the competition is a "win" with a wonderful evening at the Robins AFB Air Museum.

Also, our wing newspaper, *The 446th Associate Press*, received recognition as the top military newspaper in the Department of Defense. **Capt. Anna Sullivan, Master Sgt. Bud McKay**, and their entire staff, as well as all our unit PA reps, deserve a cheer.

Several of our fellow AFRC units have been recalled for Operation Allied Force. Some of our folks have been asked to provide them assistance, but none of us have been tasked to deploy yet.

I promise to keep you informed and give you as much notice as we can. If you hear any rumors you'd like checked out or have any other questions, please call our Action Line at 984-



Col. Alan Mitchell

Commander's Hotline
1. 2 5 3. 9 8 4. 9 1 3 3



9133 or submit your question on an Immediate Action Worksheet either on paper or on our web site. You'll get an immediate answer if wanted.

In the meantime, we need to be sure all readiness issues are complete. Your unit and the wing staff stand ready to assist you, your family, and your employer in any way needed.

I appreciate all you do as citizen-airmen to maintain our freedom. See you at the unit training assembly.

Chiefs group looking to recognize top members

By Chief Master Sgt. Bill Compton
◆ 446th Chiefs Group

Two enlisted issues currently in the works for the 446th Chiefs Group are the 25-year recognition award and the Art Morrison Award. The 25-year certificate is awarded to anyone with 25 years of honorable service. The certificate should be completed and ready to present by early this summer.

The Chief Master Sgt. Art Morrison Memorial Award is an annual award established to recognize an individual in the 446th Logistics Group who portrays the qualities exhibited by the late Morrison. This includes, but is not limited to, dress and appearance, knowledge of

regulations, policies, and procedures and the articulate manner by which he conducted day-to-day business as a consummate professional. The 1999 award will be presented Aug. 14 during the 446th Logistics Group Family Day.

The ongoing recognition program offers an on-the-spot presentation of a tape measure or knife/nail clipper purchased by the individual chiefs. The idea is to catch people in the act of doing things right and give immediate recognition.

Both Reserve and active-duty chiefs are participating. We have many outstanding people in both the 446th Airlift Wing and the 62nd Airlift Wing, and we would like to recognize as many as we can.

ANTHRAX

Continued from Page 1

Anthrax vaccinations prior to going to either region.

Misinformation about the safety of the Anthrax vaccine has run rampant over the internet. Squadron commanders within the 446th Airlift Wing have received literally hundreds of pages of documents — government as well as civilian — about the safety and the necessity of the vaccine.



The bottom line is the vaccine is safe and effective on a 99 percent lethal weapon.

Alan Mitchell

“Anyone who has a concern or a question about the safety of the vaccine can read the material for themselves,” Mitchell said. “All they have to do is ask to look through the material. There’s a number of websites they can copy down and look at them at home.

“The bottom line is the vaccine is safe and effective on a 99 percent lethal weapon.”

There have been no documented long-term side effects from the Anthrax vaccine since it was first used in the 1970s, according to defense officials.

Minimal reactions to the vaccine, such as redness and swelling in the area of the shot, are seen in up to 30 percent of recipients. Moderate reactions are seen in up to 4 percent of recipients.

Severe local reactions, which include edema that may extend to the elbow or forearm, are very rare (less than 1 percent).

Some recipients may develop a non-tender, subcutaneous nodule — a bump — that can last up to 2 months, but which resolves

IMMUNIZATION

Immunization consists of three subcutaneous injections (beneath the skin), 0.5ml each, given 2 weeks apart followed by three additional subcutaneous injections, 0.5ml each, given at 6, 12, and 18 months. If immunity is to be maintained, subsequent booster injections of the vaccine at one year intervals are recommended.



THE VACCINE



Military members will receive “anthrax vaccine absorbed (injected).” It is a sterile commercial product manufactured by the Michigan Biologic Products Institute, Lansing, Michigan. It is fully licensed (U.S. License No. 99, 1970) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human use and has had an excellent safety record. The vaccine promotes increased resistance to anthrax by active immunization. The recipient develops protection by means of antibodies and other immune mechanisms to the bacterium following immunization.

without treatment. Systemic reactions, such as fever, malaise and headache, are extremely rare (less than 0.2 percent or less than 2 per 1,000) with this vaccine.

In the May 12 issue of the *Journal of American Medical Association*, a 10-page article reports that since March 1, 590,000 doses of the Anthrax vaccine have been given to military members with “no serious adverse events.”

◆ TWO PHASES

One thing is for sure; Anthrax can be a life-threatening disease when inhaled. It can also cause a skin lesion if the spores come in contact with a break in the skin.

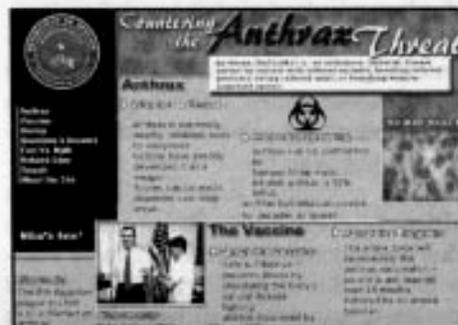
In 20 percent of reported cases, when Anthrax came into contact with the skin, it became a systemic infection. Either as a systemic infection or after inhalation, the first phase begins with flu-like symptoms; mild fever, fatigue, cough and chest pressure and can last anywhere from 24 hours to several days.

The second phase happens suddenly with a severe shortness of breath, an oozing of bodily fluids caused by perforated arteries and veins, shock and, usually within 24 hours, death.

Anthrax normally afflicts animals, especially cattle and sheep. However, Anthrax spores can easily and cheaply be produced in a dry form that can be incorporated into weapons, according to DOD officials.

Since the Gulf War, the DOD has increased the level of attention given to biological warfare defense and other force protection measures. The current world threat environment and the unpredictable nature of terrorism make it prudent to include biological warfare defense as part of force protection planning, according to the DOD officials.

“People are reading unqualified articles on the internet, like Ed’s anti-government web page,” said Staff Sgt. Dave Frank, disaster preparedness technician for 446th



The Department of Defense's official web site about the Anthrax disease and the vaccine can be found at <http://www.anthrax.esd.mil>. There are links to other medical studies — civilian and military — as well as links to articles from medical magazines.

Civil Engineer Squadron. “When I want this kind of information (biological warfare), I go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the web (www.cdc.gov).

“Biological agents differ from chemical agents. Chemical agents once dispersed dissipates quickly, whereas, biological agents, especially Anthrax, can maintain their effectiveness in the environment for years. Therefore, vaccination is the only form of defense against it. Anthrax vaccine has been around since the '70s and is approved by the FDA.”

According to Chief Master Sgt. Sonja Smith, chief of the health services branch in the 446th Medical Squadron, a special Anthrax vaccine-only line will be set up every UTA in Bldg. 165. No other immunizations will be given in that line.

If someone requires any other shots, they will have to report to the regular immunization check-in. The Anthrax vaccine will be administered during normal immunization clinic hours - Saturday, 8 to 11:30 a.m., and 1 to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

◆ Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Kelleigh, 97th Airlift Squadron, contributed to this article.

Yearly award winners stand out among the best in the wing

▲ Wing announces its Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer and Senior NCO of the year

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Crudup
◆ Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force blue pickup truck comes to a stop on the flightline and out steps the 1998 Senior NCO of the Year. Master Sgt. Steve Slagle, 446th Aircraft Generation Squadron, smiles and displays a look of confidence and pride.

"Wow, I'm honored and hope that by receiving this award, it'll shed light on such a hard career field," said Slagle, taking a break in his busy schedule for an interview on the flightline.

As a production supervisor, Slagle's in charge of executing the flying schedule on the B-unit training assembly. Slagle oversees the status of the aircraft and is the last person to ensure that all forms have been properly documented, before releasing the aircraft for takeoff.

"He knows the books (regulations)," said Senior Master Sgt. Jim Baker, 446th AGS. Baker takes a deep breath and recalls knowing Slagle when he was on active-duty. "It's been 15 years and he still works great with people. He's definitely a leader by example."

Chief Master Sgt. Horacio Beruti, 446th AGS, talked about Slagle going to the active-duty squadrons to see if they need help with maintenance work.

But that's what Slagle calls having fun, and he said he's still having fun at his job. And he hopes to continue with that all the way to his retirement from the Reserve.

Hearing voices transmitting over the radio, Slagle's attention focuses on the message. With the turn of a key and that award winning smile, he's off in his Air Force blue



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Crudup
Senior Master Sgt. Steve Slagle, the 446th Airlift Wing's Senior NCO of the Year.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay
Master Sgt. Jim Masura, left, the 446th Airlift Wing's NCO of the Year, goes over last-minute details with a Navy skydiver before a joint-service training mission in March.

pickup truck again.

◆ NCO OF THE YEAR

When it comes to "exceeding the expectations," Master Sgt. Jim Masura, 728th Airlift Squadron, knows all about it. With more than 5,000 hours as a C-141 loadmaster, he made it into the top 10 percent of his career field as an examiner, where he earned the highest rating from 15th Air Force flight evaluator, while achieving 100 percent on his written exam.

"I have prioritized my life with family being first, then the Air Force Reserve and my civilian job," said Masura. "Putting the Reserve high on my list, I was able to spend the time and concentrate on doing what is needed as a loadmaster."

Taking responsibility for his area of expertise is a driving factor for Masura.

"He is a super-conscientious person who will get the job done even before he is asked to do it," said Master Sgt. Robert Norris, a 728th AS C-17 loadmaster. "One of best things that's happened to this unit is when Masura joined the squadron last October as an air reserve technician. He is easy to get along with, a dedicated person and is professional in all tasks given him."

Masura volunteered and represented McChord during the 1996 and 1998 Rodeos as a primary aircrew member. Also, he led the 36th and 86th Aerial Port Squad-

rons training in aircraft equipment and loading procedures. He leads by example, always ready to do what is asked of him.

"Masura's has a great attitude," said Chief Master Sgt. James Shadoff, 313th AS loadmaster resource manager. "He isn't the type to sit around and wait for someone else to do the job. He wants to work and jumps right in to get it done."

Not only does he take on additional duties in the Reserve, Masura takes on outside activities as a volunteer in the Experimental Aircraft Association introducing young people to flying and the aviation field.

"Teaching 5- to 16-year-olds about an airplane and actually taking them flying, some for the first time, seeing the excitement in their eyes makes it worth my while," he said.

◆ AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

As an aircraft electro-environmental journeyman for the 446th Maintenance Squadron, Staff Sgt. Aaron Bedker, 446th, believes his award is a direct result of the effective training and guidance he's received at his unit.

"I'm able to train and get the missions done because of the expertise of our shop team," said Bedker. "I can go to the best for help if I need it, and I want to do a good job."

And doing a good job is the report that

◆ See AWARD continued on Page 5

New Command Chief Master Sergeant visits 446th Airlift Wing

▲ Blackburn talks to enlisted reservists who continue to juggle military, civilian careers

By 1st Lt Tamara Lewis
♦ Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt Billy Blackburn made his first official visit to the 446th Airlift Wing in April. Blackburn was appointed the Command Chief Master Sergeant for Air Force Reserve Command on Jan 1. The position, previously called Senior Enlisted Advisor, is the highest ranking enlisted position in AFRC.

Blackburn came to the position from AFRC Recruiting where he had been the first sergeant since August of 1994.

The Kentucky native has served on active duty, as a traditional reservist and as an air reserve technician in his 25 years of military service, including five years as a military training instructor at Chanute AFB, Ill, and Lackland AFB, Texas. He had no plans to make the military a way of life

when he enlisted in 1974.

"I had no idea I would make it to this level," said Blackburn. "I planned to stay in for four years and then get out."

He saw the military as a way to go to college. He was influenced by his time participating with Junior ROTC in high school.

"My family wasn't overly wealthy," he said. "I didn't want to put the burden of college on my folks. It seemed like a good way to go."

Blackburn sees his job as Command Chief Master Sgt as twofold. One job is to make sure enlisted servicemen and women understand the policies of the command. The other is to find out what issues and concerns the enlisted force has and to take those issues to the command staff.

The issue Blackburn hears most about is the time commitments facing reservists today.

"Being a traditional reservist today is not like it used to be," he said. "It's not a one weekend a month job anymore. We're putting in more time and it's still hard to get the job done that we're required to do. The

balancing act is getting harder and harder."

Even though the road of a reservist has a lot of bumps and downright roadblocks at times, they are still getting the job done, according to Blackburn. He attributes their success to the professionalism and devotion to duty each reservist has, as well as the experience level.

"McChord's got some tough times ahead with the conversion to the C-17, but they've done it before," he said referring to the C-124 sitting on the flightline.

Blackburn knows times and the Reserve have changed. His hope is that he can help to influence that change for the better and do what he needs to do to ensure a good quality of life.

"I know we ask for a lot of juggling," he said. "But I want enlisted people to truly know the senior leadership is in touch with those issues and is working hard to make that balancing act as easy as possible."

AWARD

Continued from Page 4



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Crudup
Staff Sgt. Aaron Bedker is the 446th Airlift Wing's Airman of the Year.

his supervisors received about Bedker's work after an unexpected typhoon hit Guam. During his annual training tour there,

Bedker put in countless hours in the hot disaster stricken area, without complaint.

Working alongside civil engineers, Bedker used his maintenance and welding skills to repair aerospace ground equipment and helped restore electrical power to base housing.

"It's his approach to taking on a challenge, he'll tinker and try until he gets it done," said Master Sgt. Aubrey Robertson, 446th MXS.

"I'm totally surprised and thankful that my efforts are being recognized," said Bedker, "I want to have a long career as a reservist and this is a great incentive."

"I'm not surprised at all," said Tech. Sgt. Dale Serr, 446th MXS. "I've worked with him, and with the work ethics he has, he's well deserving of this award."

Bedker was promoted to Staff Sgt. Sept. 1. He keeps busy as a husband and dad of three. He continues to build his skills, by taking computer aided drafting courses at a local community college and works as a welder at his family-owned business. He also actively participates as a youth leader at his church.

♦ Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Kelleigh, 97th Airlift Squadron, contributed to this article

▼ Chief Schnorr



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay
Col. Dennis Schnorr, 446th Logistics Group commander, was made an honorary chief at an induction ceremony April 17. Helping with the induction is Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn, command Chief Master Sergeant for the Air Force Reserve Command. Induction requires a unanimous vote by all the members of the 446th Chiefs Group. Colonel Schnorr was selected for his excellent leadership and dedication to his enlisted logistic airmen.

◆ The beat goes on

More reservists called up to active duty, deploy overseas

More than 220 reservists from the 513th Air Control Group, Tinker AFB, Okla., began deploying May 14 while 13 reservists from Portland's 939th Rescue Wing were called to active duty to support U.S. combat operations overseas.

These activations are part of the call-up previously announced May 7 by Secretary of Defense William Cohen under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up. As of mid-May, a total of 1,094 Air Force Reservists have been mobilized. Another 632 Air Force Reservists have been identified for call up under the PSRC.

So far no members of the 446th Airlift Wing have been activated, however, five members from the wing have helped other Air Force bases with their deployments.

Two members of the 86th Aerial Port Squadron and one member of the 36th Aerial Port Squadron helped the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., load and launch seven KC-135 air refueling aircraft and nearly 500 reservists toward the end of April.

Two members of the 446th Airlift Wing public affairs office provided media relations support for two other wings -- the 927th Air Refueling Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., and the 940th ARW, Beale AFB, Calif., in early May.

By mid-May, the Air Force Reserve had nearly 600 mobilized reservists deployed overseas. Four Reserve units began sending mobilized troops and KC-135 air refueling aircraft overseas during the first two weeks of May.

The 434th ARW started deploying mobilized reservists overseas May 7. Reservists in the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March ARB, Calif., began departing May 10. The next day members of the 927th Air Refueling Wing, and the 940th ARW started leaving for Europe.

Another KC-135 unit, the 931st Air Refueling Group from McConnell AFB, Kan., deployed 57 mobilized reservists to Europe May 2 and 10 more followed shortly later. The 931st ARG is an associate unit, which flies and maintains KC-135 aircraft with the 22nd ARW, the active-duty host unit at McConnell AFB.

Portland's 939th RQW deployed another 120 reservists the first week of May. The Portland reservists fly and maintain the HC-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rob Mims

A deployed member from McConnell AFB, Kan., marshals a KC-135 Stratotanker deployed to Southern Europe in support of NATO's Operation Allied Force.



Photo by Senior Airman Jeffrey Allen

An Aviano F-16 moves into position for takeoff for a mission in support of NATO's Operation Allied Force.

130 refueling aircraft from the 939th RQW and HH-60G helicopters from the wing's 305th Rescue Squadron, Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Eighty-five individual mobilization augmentees were called up for duty in the United States, including IMAs supporting the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott AFB, Ill.

The Reserve also has 530 volunteers on

duty supporting the war in the Balkans and Operation Northern Watch. Nearly 480 are overseas, mostly in Germany and France.

The 916th ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., has KC-135 aircraft, crews and support people deployed to Istres, France, for Operation Deliberate Forge, which the Reserve is supporting until June 30. The North Carolina unit also had a KC-135 aircraft at Keflavik, Iceland, for first two weeks of May.

Reserve C-130 aircraft, crews and support people have been staging humanitarian airlift missions out of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, since April 16. As of May 14, they had flown 270 sorties to deliver food, medicine, blankets and other humanitarian goods to Kosovo refugees.

Five C-130s are deployed. They are from the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins ARB, Ga.; 440th AW, Gen. Mitchell IAP Air Reserve Station, Wis.; 910th AW, Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport ARS, Ohio; and 914th AW, Niagara Falls IAP ARS, N.Y.

The 944th Fighter Wing from Luke AFB, Ariz., has pilots and support people at Incirlik AB, Turkey, for Operation Northern Watch. The pilots are flying F-16s from Luke AFB and Homestead ARS, Fla., to enforce the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

The Reserve also has C-5, C-17 and C-141 crews flying contingency missions overseas in support of Operation Allied Force.

◆ AFRC News Service

McChord hosts JOLDS Working Together

The Junior Officers Leadership Seminar, "Working Together," will be held Aug. 5-8 at the Chapel Annex (Bldg. 746) at McChord for officers from 2nd lieutenant to captain. The registration fee is \$75.

The seminar features speakers and discussion on topics including conflict resolution, coaching/mentoring, officer performance reports, officer and enlisted issues, total force issues and a leadership reaction course. It's open to the first 60 people.

JOLDS qualifies as professional military education, so participants can be authorized mandays, annual tour or school funding.

To register, or for more information, call 1st Lt. C.J. Johnson at 984-3838 or via email at cj.johnson@ibm.net.

Reserve survivor benefit plan enrollment opens

An open enrollment period for the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan has been established until March.

The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Program is the only program that allows reservists and Guardsmen to leave a percentage of their future Air Force retirement pay as a monthly annuity to their beneficiaries.

All members who qualify for retirement pay at age 60 and are either not enrolled in the program or, if enrolled, are not enrolled to the fullest extent will receive a letter from HQ ARPC Entitlements by the June. This can be confusing since many members selected option B or C and did not select supplemental coverage for the member's spouse. During the open enrollment period you can not downgrade or withdraw a previous election.

The three options regarding RCSBP protection for your

family are:

- ◆ Option A. Defers election to age 60. Survivors would not benefit from the RCSBP should you die prior to age 60.

- ◆ Option B. Provides coverage for an annuity to begin on your 60th birthday, if you should die prior to age 60 or begin immediately if you should die after age 60.

- ◆ Option C. Provides coverage for an annuity to begin when you die.

The beneficiary's annuity normally reduces from 55 percent to 35 percent at their 62nd birth date. The Supplemental Survivor Benefit Plan allows you, for an additional premium, to keep the annuity from reducing to 35 percent.

The cost is based on your age at the time you were eligible to enroll. This coverage is optional and purchased in 5, 10, 15 or 20 percent. This supplement is available under options B and C.

If you have received a letter about the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Program and do not desire to change your current election, do not sign and return the letter.

General information is available on the HQ ARPC Entitlements web site at www.arpc.org/subjects/entitle.htm. If you do not have access to the internet, this information is also available in the Customer Service Element of the Reserve Military Personnel Flight Bldg. 1205 Room 116.

Promotions

Colonel

Shirley Cameron, 446th AES
Dennis Hammermaster, 446th SPTG
Roger Parsons, 313th AS
David Richards, 728th AS
Dale Rhotehamel, 446th ASTS

Chief Master Sergeant

Lewis Crouch, 446th MXS
Gerald Lewis, 446th AGS

Senior Master Sergeant

Kenneth Ernzen, 728th AS
Frances Morton, 446th MDS
Steven Palmer, 97th AS
Mark Riddell, 446th CES
Wesley Self, 446th AGS

Master Sergeant

Gary Boyd, 86th APS
Terry Bushnell, 728th AS
Lisa Caron, 446th MSS
Shannon Ford, 446th AES
Chandra Haley, 446th ASTS
Partick Lane, 446th CES
Bud McKay, 446th AW
Katheryn Solis, 446th MSS

Technical Sergeant

Donald Baker, 97th AS
Michael Balsiger, 36th APS
Jeffery Barsaloux, 446th AGS
George Campbell, 86th APS
Kenny Cathcart, 36th APS
Abraham Chandeck, 86th APS
John Donnelly, 97th AS
Sharon Elkman, 86th APS
Bernard Erni, 36th APS
Julius Gibson, 446th ACF
Arthur Green, 36th APS
Kimberley Hagerty, 446th AGS
Omar Hernandez, 36th APS
Randy Holloman, 446th MXS
Gary Hodkin, 446th AGS
Stephen Keithley, 36th APS
David Lewis, 313th AS
Michael Lienard, 36th APS
Gary Livers, 86th APS
Linda Newman, 36th APS
Henry Patino, 36th APS
Darin Prince, 446th AGS
Jeffery Richards, 446th AGS
Ricardo Rubiano, 36th APS
Terrill Skaw, 446th MXS
Tyrone Street, 446th MSS
Paul Understellar, 728 AS
Edsel Vaughn, 86th APS
Daniel Watson, 446th MXS
John Zeigler, 446th MXS
Dann Zehn, 446th OSF

Staff Sergeant

Michael Bannon, 446th MXS
Douglas Cook, 446th AGS
Todd Cupp, 313th AS
Gary Dixon, 86th APS
Eric Fiedorczyk, 446th ASTS
Agnes Galicia, 446th ASTS
Perry Lopez, 97th AS
Michelle McNamara, 446th AGS
Cheryl Schaeferlewis, 446th ACF
Douglas Seekins, 446th CES

Bobby Singer, 36th APS

Senior Airman

Angela Biggs, 446th AES
Wilfred Cena, 86th APS
William Duncan, 446th AGS
Shawn Ensley, 36th APS
Jason Hunter, 86th APS
Neal Lightle, 97th AS

Airman

Ryanjulius Diaz, 446th ASTS
Jarrett Voyvodich, 446th AGS

Newcomers

Captain

Kenneth Appezzato, 97th AS
Steven Everett, 97th AS
Katherine Kiner, 446th ASTS
Oliver Martin, 97th AS
Christopher Vonthaden, 728th AS
Kevin Welin, 728th AS

Second Lieutenant

Kenneth Dinovo, 446th MSS

Technical Sergeant

Francis Barnes, 446th AGS
David Sullender, 446th AGS

Staff Sergeant

Steven Bell, 446th MXS
Debra Boyd, 446th ASTS
Trent Bramham, 97th AS
Richard Faust, 36th APS
Eric Fiedler, 86th APS
Eric Kiphart, 446th AES
Kirby Meyer, 446th ASTS
Gus Reyes, 446th CES
Curtis Richard, 313th AS
Lorena Schutts, 446th MSS
Michael Sekerak, 446th MXS
Karol Shaffer, 446th MDS
Katherine Shuravloff, 446th AGS
Dennis Sumida, 446th SFS
Edward Sundquist, 446th AGS
Dean Wells, 446th MXS

Senior Airman

Callen Cavinder, 446th CES
Steven Chang, 446th MDS
Todd Cupp, 313th AS
Aven Ertel, 446th MXS
Amber Garland, 446th AGS
Michael Lafrance, 446th ASTS
Lisa Saavedra, 446th ASTS
Curtis Thompson, 446th AW
Richard Terrell, 446th MXS
Richard Valles, 446th ASTS

April Employer Orientation Day exceeds expectations

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Crudup
♦ Wing Public Affairs

Employer Orientation Day starts bright and early April 10 at 7:30 a.m. at the main gate where 35 employers are greeted and conveyed to the collocated clubs.



These guys really know what they're doing, they're professional and I'm really impressed by the whole operation.

James Tippens

Standing in the breakfast line at the base's dining facility, some employers joked about old boot camp stories while others listened. They were able to enjoy made-to-order omelets and bagels before beginning a fun-filled learning experience.

Col. Alan Mitchell, 446th Airlift Wing commander, welcomed employ-

Employer Orientation Day, held every April and October, brings together civilian employers, Reserve commanders and reservists to give employers a firsthand chance to look, listen and learn about the mission and accomplishments of the Air Force Reserve.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Crudup

Employers get a tour of the isochronal inspection dock.

ers and asked them to take notes and learn the important part a trained and strong Reserve force plays in the nation's defense.

Cameras clicking and video cameras in hand, employers get a short tour of the base on the way to the Isochronal Inspection Dock. At the dock, a C-141B Starlifter is parked for its' routine maintenance, where it will be inspected and repaired by the 446th Maintenance Squadron.

Eyes wide and smiles broad, the employers walk inside and on top of this large aircraft as part of their tour.

"I knew that we're going to be flying in one today, but I never thought that I'd

be walking on top of one," said Robert Wilkinson, with the Seattle Parks and Recreation, as he stood on the left wing of the aircraft.

After the tour and walk on top of the plane, a bus full of anxious employers takes off to the flightline for a one-hour flight on a C-141 for an aeromedical evacuation demonstration and to see a container delivery system drop.

The rain stopped and the sky cleared, just in time to have a smooth takeoff. Once cleared to move about the aircraft, they did. There was no need to tell the 35 employers to get up. They peeked out of the windows, laid on the gurneys, asked questions of the flight and aeromedical crews, and

learned all that they could over the noise of the engines. Being in the flightdeck while the aircraft was parked, was one thing, being there in-flight, that's another.

"These guys really know what they're doing, they're professional and I'm really impressed by the whole operation," said James Tippens, maintenance supervisor with Link Transit in Wenatchee, Washington.

Tippens was able to have his first experience on an Air Force base through the Employer Orientation Day program. By seeing his reservist, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Trimble, jet engine technician, 446th Maintenance Squadron, at work put it all into perspective.

"I'll continue to support him, whenever he's needed," said Tippens.

After the ISO dock tour and the flight, it was time for the buffet style lunch.

Reservists and their military and civilian employers met up to have lunch together and talked about the day's events. Soon after, the reservists escorted their employers off to tour individual workstations.

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