

Gulf Wing

403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Air Force Reserve Command

Home of the Flying Jennies & the Hurricane Hunters
Volume 24, Issue 9, September 2003

Teen Warriors:
Guard, reserve kids
test their mettle
See Pages 9-12

**An Eye for
Freedom**
See Pages 6-8

SEPT 2003

Teen Warrior Week

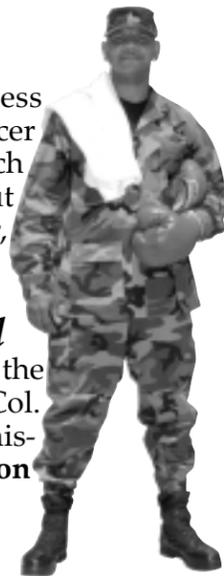
A ragtag band of young people arrived at Keesler Air Force Base, in Biloxi, Miss. June 20 to "deploy" as team members during Teen Warrior Week. This pilot program, sponsored by the 81st Training Wing, Services Division, targeted children of reservists, Guardsmen and active duty. All of the services were represented among the 24 warriors. **Read more on Pages 9-12.**

What's in Your Wallet?

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Just Call Him "Coach"

To the members of the 403rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, he's known as 1st Lt. Dennis Walker, officer in charge of the Transportation Management Branch and Vehicle Maintenance Management Branch. But to the Air Force Boxing Team's first female fighter, he's "coach." **Read more on Pages 14-15.**



Medics Support U.S. Actions Abroad

Col. Maria de los A. Pons, acting commander of the 403rd ASTS bids farewell to outgoing commander Col. Terrell Hebert and discusses some of the varied missions the unit has supported recently. **Read more on Page 19.**

Cover Page



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

An Eye for Freedom

In the final hours of Desert Storm, Dr. (Capt.) Janusz Luka saw something he wasn't prepared to see - the ravages of war and it's toll on people. Luka, at the time an Army sergeant and combat medic, was aboard a helicopter traveling home from Iraq. **Read more on Pages 6-8.**

Mail Call

Not getting your Gulf Wing in the mail? Ensure your orderly room has your correct address and that it is updated on the Wing Alpha Roster.



Photo by SSgt. James B. Pritchett

All in the Family:

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Schexnayder, a reserve recruiter for the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. congratulates the newly enlisted, Senior Airman Stacy Schexnayder, his wife of eight years. Tech. Sgt. Schexnayder met his recruiting goal July 18, when Stacy took the oath and began her career in financial management with the wing. Proving further that 403rd recruiters are a tight-knit bunch, the officer presiding over the enlistment was 2nd Lt. Stacey Wiggins, nephew of 403rd Wing Senior Recruiter, Senior Master Sgt. James Wiggins. This was the lieutenant's first enlistment as a newly commissioned communications officer with the wing.

Gulf Wing Salutes

NEWCOMERS

SSgt. Roy C. Ailshie, 41st APS
TSgt. Charles A. Bell, 403rd LRS
A1C Tawanda D. Frieson, 403rd LRS
A1C Pricilla S. Gordon, 403rd ASTS
Maj. Keith M. Gibson, 815th AS
MSgt. Stephen H. Jones, 53rd WRS
SSgt. Randall Lynch, 96th APS
1st Lt. Darryl G. McLean, 403rd FM
SrA Patrick F. Montgomery, 403rd ASTS
A1C Brandon Parish, 815th AS
SrA Jamie K. Stevenson, 403rd ASTS
SSgt. Laurence W. Thomaz, 403rd ASTS

PROMOTIONS

To Senior Airman:
Michelle E. Clark, 96th APS

Shannon L. Coons, 403rd ASTS
Ricky Eubanks, 41st APS
Anthony E. Gehl, 403rd AMXS
Henry D. Ainsworth II, 41st APS
Garradise Hinton, 403rd MOF
Howard Nuckolls, 41st APS
Jennifer Reynolds, 815th AS
Gustav U. Schmidle, 96th APS
Kery B. Strickland, 403rd ASTS
Eric C. Watts, 403rd AMXS

To Airman:

Zenita L. Street, 403rd MOF
Gary L. Rush, 403rd LRS

Pay Date
Sept. 17
Next UTA
Oct. 6-7

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Volume 24, Issue 9

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MSgt. Anthony Stallings, 403rd MXG * SSgt. Penny Washington, 403rd
Chaplains* SSgt. Jonathan Vansandt, 96th APS * Marie Haberstroh, CAP



Photo by SrA Michael Eaton

Tech. Sgt. Robert Reville leads members of the 403rd Security Forces Squadron into warm-up exercises before physical training. Members of the squadron perform physical training as a unit during each UTA. With new fitness standards looming on the horizon for the active duty Air Force, AFRC is likely to be close behind. The Fit Warrior program, which goes into effect in January, is designed to ensure today's airmen are physically prepared for deployments. It incorporates additional exercise requirements airmen will have to meet during annual fitness testing. Fit Warrior will now test airmen's fitness levels by measuring their performance of sit-ups, push-ups and running 1.5 miles.



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Air Force Reserve recruiter Tech. Sgt. Bryan Schexnayder tells Ashley Lomax, 13, of Biloxi, Miss., all about the AFRC. Schexnayder and other recruiters from the 403rd Wing represented Air Force Reserve Command at the 20th annual Night Out Against Crime at the Biloxi Police Dept., which gives the community an opportunity to meet and greet the people who protect them in the various services in the United States.



Photo by SSgt. Michael Duhé

(Above) Chaplain (Capt.) Jim Fisher was recently accepted in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Doctorate Program, in Louisville, Ky. Rev. Fisher will serve as senior pastor for a church in Lanesville, Ind. and has joined the chaplain team at the 445th AW, WPAFB, Ohio.

(Left) Riding Out the Storm: Lt. Col. Ken Gates, a Hurricane Hunter pilot instructor and examiner, stands by the WC-130H that he loves to fly. He retired from the unit Aug. 31 after 37 years of service, 28 of those with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron.



Photo by Capt. Chad Gibson



Photo by SSgt. James B. Pritchett



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

(Above) Tech. Sgt. Mike Conrad, an avionics technician with the 403rd Maintenance Group, changes the identification friend/foe antenna. The antenna identifies whether or not nearby aircraft are friendly.

(Left) Senior Master Sgt. Gayle Holmen, a loadmaster with the 815th Airlift Squadron, marshals a load onto a C-130J during filming of a video. The 815th is helping out with the video to sell the idea of a CCATT team here at Keesler.

An Eye For Freedom

Martial law, political dissidence and exile at the hands of Communist leaders led Janusz Luka to seek the freedom of America. Today he is repaying his new homeland by serving in the Air Force Reserve.

By SrA J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

In the final hours of Desert Storm, Dr. (Capt.) Janusz Luka saw something he wasn't prepared to see - the ravages of war and its toll on people.

Luka, at the time an Army sergeant and combat medic in the 5th Infantry Division, was aboard a helicopter traveling from Iraq to his home station at Fort Polk, La.

On his way, the crew got an emergency call to save a French army unit that stumbled into a field seeded with landmines.

Luka and his team gathered what

was left of the men and began to repair them. With nine legs blown off of seven people, Luka said it was definitely the most gruesome sight he had ever seen. He and his team remained strong and patched them up as best they could, saving all but one.

Luka, a native of Poland, said he is always ready to serve the United States, because he believes in and appreciates its democracy. To show his appreciation to the country that welcomed him in after his exile from Poland, Janusz has served eight years combined active duty in the Army and Air Force.

In July, he shifted paths to the Air Force Reserve, when he joined the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron as the first optometrist the squadron has had in 10 years.

"He's a big asset; we now have the ability to complete our mission as we were originally assigned to," said Tech. Sgt. Dennis Riccio, an optometry technician. "It's hard to find people who want to give up two days of their time from their own practice to come here and work."

As a partner in an optometry practice where he resides in Memphis, Tenn., Luka said he joined the Reserve not for money, but because he knew

his help was critical. "We have pilots, so they need to meet certain standards and the easiest way to do this is to have an in-house optometrist," Luka said with an accent as strong as his patriotism. "Before, pilots had to come to the active duty to get eye-tests, but now that I'm here, they can come during drill weekends."

As Luka sat with other reservists from the eye clinic, he laughed and joked with them about why he decided to join the unit.

"I wanted to make our pilots mean green flying machines," he teased.

Continued on Page 8 ▶



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

(Above) Dr. (Capt.) Janusz Luka, the first Optometrist to work for the 403rd ASTS in a decade, uses specialized equipment to check the vision of pilots and other people in the wing.

Continued from Page 7

Smiles and laughs faded as he related the true reason he is serving his adopted country.

Luka grew up living in communist Poland, where he and his entire family were involved in the anti-communist movement. After his father's imprisonment in a communist camp for more than seven years, he grew to be a young man who was passionate about his freedom and rights.

"It was natural for me to join anti-communist organizations, and by living this way, I built up my own case and eventually started getting harassed" said Luka. "Quite often they don't target you; they target your family, so I had to move on."

Luka's beliefs eventually bought him a ticket to a re-socialization camp, and he was exiled in 1983, shortly after the declaration of martial law in Poland.

Three years later after a move to Germany, Luka found sanctuary in the

United States. With a bachelor's degree in chemistry, he went back to college in Memphis and studied to become an optometrist.

"The United States is the only country that sticks to the Constitution that it was first based on; no other country, no matter how democratic, has done this," said Luka. "In Poland, that was our goal -- to change the constitution. And we did."

"The United States gives me as an immigrant an equal right, as long as I follow the laws and rules of the Constitution. My rights are the same as yours, and the country looks at me in the same way it looks at you," he said.

Luka said he enjoys his new working environment at the 403rd ASTS. He is now responsible for keeping the eyes of reserve pilots from the 815th Airlift Squadron and the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron up to the highest Air Force standards. He said he is doing his part, one pair of eyes at a time.



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Dr. (Capt.) Janusz Luka, an optometrist with the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, works in the Optometry Clinic on UTA weekends. He endured political persecution in his homeland in Poland before emigrating to the United States. His military service is his way of repaying his new country for the freedoms he enjoys as a citizen.

TEEN *Week* WARRIOR

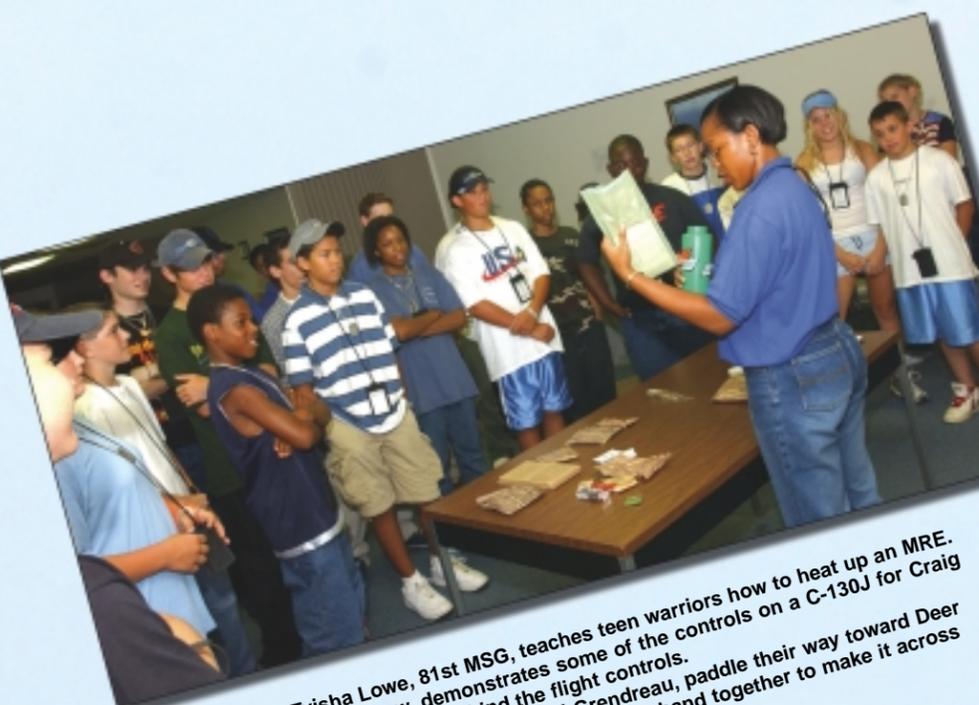


Story and photos by SSgt. James B. Pritchett

Editor, Gulf Wing

A ragtag band of young people arrived at Keesler Air Force Base, in Biloxi, Miss. June 20 to "deploy" as team members during Teen Warrior Week.

This pilot program, sponsored by the 81st Training Wing, Services Division, targeted children of reservists, Guardsmen and active duty. All of the services were represented among the 24 warriors.



(Above) 2nd Lt. Tyisha Lowe, 81st MSG, teaches teen warriors how to heat up an MRE. (Right) 1st Lt. Mark Suckow, demonstrates some of the controls on a C-130J for Craig Jenkins who is taking his turn behind the flight controls. (Previous Page) Christine Rowell and Heidi Grendreau, paddle their way toward Deer Island. (Background this page) All the teen warriors band together to make it across the channel on their way to Deer Island.



Teen Warrior, Brian Grant, son of Master Sgt. Joseph Grant, 403rd MXS, edges his way across a narrow bridge during team-building exercises at the Reach Ropes Course in Hattiesburg, Miss.



"One of the main goals of the camp was to teach these young people about what their parents do and what it's like for them when they have to deploy," said Jeri Peterson, youth programs director. "According to the teens themselves and their parents, we were successful."

About one-third of the teens who attended had a parent who had deployed in the past year, according to Peterson. At least five children who attended, have parents who serve in the 403rd Wing.

Many of the other parents are affiliated with National Guard and reserve units from around the state. One teen came all the way from Carthage, Miss. to join in the fun.

From the moment they arrived at the deployment facility with their duffel bags, the apprehension about the week they were facing was apparent.

Learning about the military started as soon as they walked in. All signed in and waited for their "deployment" briefing. They were issued essential equipment and had a short course on heating a military staple the MRE or Meals Ready to Eat.

Teens then checked into their dorms in Cole Brunguard Manor where they stayed most of the week.

"They liked staying in base lodging, where they each had their own rooms; and if how much you eat is any indi-

cation of how much you like the food, they were thrilled to death with Pecan Dining Facility," said Peterson.

Events were planned for nearly every waking moment, keeping the warriors on the go from place to place. Highlights, according to the teens, were a visit with the 815th Airlift Squadron and tour of a C-130J; the Reach Ropes Course in Hattiesburg, Miss.; a kayak trip to Deer Island and of course pool parties.

"The ropes course was the most interesting thing for me. There was a lot of variety there and it was very challenging," said Kelly Baczuk, daughter of Maj. Pat Baczuk, 403rd Wing Plans.

"One of the most important things I learned about was teamwork," Kelly said. "Challenges are much easier when you are part of a team. It's better to work with other people than all alone."

A torrential downpour caused some discomfort for the Teen Warriors during a scheduled bivouac at Paul B. Johnson State Park. Several teens said the toughest trial of the week was trying to sleep outside that night.

"Sleeping in a tent in three inches of water was definitely the hardest part of the week for me," said Kelly. "I can't believe we made it through the night. It just showed us what we could do if we have to and also what our parents

may have to do."

"This camp was fun and exciting. I wish it was longer," said Michael Davis, son of Tech. Sgt. Lewis Davis of the 403rd Maintenance Squadron. Michael's sister Mary also attended.

The camp was offered free of charge; a pleasant surprise for many parents.

"The Air Force provided money through AETC for bases that were interested in trying the program. We also had funding from the United Way that helped out tremendously," said Peterson. "About half of the kids indicated that they would not have been able to attend a camp like this if it had not been offered for free. Because the program was so successful this year, we are already seeking funding for next year's Teen Warrior Week."

Those who attended this summer will return to Keesler in October to attend a mock "Unit Training Assembly," much like the weekend duty their parents participate in each month.

"The most successful part of the program was in taking 24 individuals with varying backgrounds and turning them into a team in a week," said Peterson. "All the feedback we've heard from parents and teens is positive, and all have said they want to come back next year."



Kelly Baczuk fires a paintball gun for the first time during Teen Warrior Week "deployment" processing.

What's in your wallet?

Common Access Card replaces old identification, boosts security, allows for digital signatures

By TSgt. Tina Robinson
UPAR, 403rd MSS From an AFRC News Release

By now, most of us have waited in line to hand over the old green identification card for the new white card with personal identification codes, gold chips, bar codes, and computer generated pictures. Why you may ask? For about the last two years, the Defense Department has been pushing active duty, reserve, and guard units to trade in their old cards for the new Public Key Infrastructure card. The Air Force is on track to have all active duty, reserve, guard, DoD civilians, and eligible contractor IDs switched out by October.

The transition to the new "Common Access Card," which is also known as the "smart card" began in 2000 after the federal government issued guidelines for using electronic signatures on all forms of government computer information exchange.

These "e-signatures" are used to prevent hackers and identity thieves from accessing government systems.

The Public Key Infrastructure is our "Electronic Key to the Future". It consists of a combination of hardware, software, policies, and procedures as well as the ability to authenticate, protect, and digitally sign electronic mail and documents. Digital signatures are as legally binding as handwritten signatures.

You use the PKI certificates, which is the digital representation of a physical (paper) certificate; on your Common Access Card to digitally sign documents such as e-mail, encrypt information, and to establish secure Internet sessions by entering your 6-8 digit PIN.

Initially, the cards will contain identification and security information. Later versions will hold such information as inoculations, medical and dental data, finance allotments and other data.

The card will allow for access to buildings, to computer systems, and eventually, it has the capability of facilitating electronic commerce, allowances, dining facility accesses and the like. Every computer in the Air Force will have a small device called a "smart card reader" attached to it. This reader will allow users access to the computer by inserting their card into it.

The following guidance has been received from AFPC (Dress and Appearance) and is to be used when wearing the CAC in military uniform. Air Force has not mandated the wear of the CAC in uniform, however, the installation commander may establish a local requirement for it to be worn.

According to regulations, "When worn, the CAC must be worn on the front of the body, displayed above the waist and below the neck. Plain, dark blue, or black ropes, silver or plastic small conservative link chains, and clear plastic. Green may also be worn with the BDU. Must not present safety issue."

To meet the needs of the Air Force, the 403rd Wing has implemented a plan to help minimize the overflow of personnel trying to obtain the card.

Work Group Managers have installed CAC readers in the unit orderly rooms to identify those members who currently possess a green ID card, those who have forgotten their PIN, and CAC cards that do not carry all necessary certificates. Once these members are identified, units will send them to the 403d Customer Service office. To help eliminate the extensive waiting time, the 81st Customer Service office, located at the Sablich Center, is open every

Sunday for the months of August, September, and October. In return, the 403rd is open during the week to assist with an overflow of customers.

The following schedule is set to accommodate the transition process:

Sept. 7	Oct. 5
815 AS	403 MXG
41 APS	403 MXS
403 SFS	403 MOF
53 WRS	403 MXS
403 SVF	403 AMXS
403 CES	

ARTS and DoD civilians are being asked to visit Customer Service during the week. Also, any members who reside in the local area and are able to come in during the week would reduce the wait time during UTAs. If you would like additional information on the CAC or PKI please stop by customer service.



Airman Tanisha Lofton, a customer service technician for the 403rd mission support squadron, displays an example of the new Common Access Card. Lofton replaces outdated identification cards with the new CAC in the Customer Service Center, located upstairs in Wing Headquarters.



(Top) Richard Humphreys confidently strides across a confidence course bridge more than 30 feet off the ground. Teens helped course instructors ensure the safety of those crossing the bridge by assisting with the belay lines and checking safety rigging before each teen took his turn. (Above) Kelly Baczuk, gets hitched up for her turn on the confidence course. Kelly and many of the other teens agreed that this was the most interesting and exciting event of the week.



Nicole Scorby, ties her safety line in preparation for the belay course. Teen Warriors learned about the importance of safety and teamwork at the Reach Ropes Course.

Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Just call him "coach"

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe
Senior Staff Writer

To the members of the 403rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, he's known as 1st Lt. Dennis Walker, officer in charge of the Transportation Management Branch and Vehicle Maintenance Management Branch. But to the Air Force Boxing Team's first female fighter, he's "coach."

Walker, who is prior enlisted, has been a member of the 403rd for three years. He lives in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and is a civilian assigned to the 96th Communications Group at Eglin AFB. A former amateur and professional boxer, he is also a boxing coach and trainer, and runs a boxing gym in Fort Walton.

He still recalls the day a little more than two years ago when Staff Sgt. Charmaine Carrington, a weapons-load crew chief at Eglin AFB, walked into his gym and expressed interest in training as a boxer.

"I always tease her and say she 'wobbled' into the gym because she was kind of heavysset," Walker joked. "I kind of took her under my wing and started teaching her about boxing and she became pretty good at it."

Carrington trained intensely for months, and her enthusiasm and hard work paid off. Last year, Walker decided she was good enough to earn a shot at the Air Force Boxing Team. In January, she got her chance. After several weeks of intense training at Lackland, Carrington won a "box-off" against two other females vying for the spot as the team's first female fighter.

Carrington returned to Florida and began fighting in local bouts, mostly against amateurs. She had a spotless 7-0 record going into her first major bout at the USA Women's Nationals held at Augusta, Ga., in June, where she impressed many by winning the bronze in the 138-pound division. Her only loss was to the USA Boxing top-ranked fighter in the 138-pound division, Jill Emery, a rangy southpaw from New York City.

Following that tournament, Walker and Carrington set their sites for the 2003 National Golden Gloves Championship held Aug. 6-9 in Chicago. They expected to once again face Emery in the finals. Boxing a southpaw presents a unique challenge, Walker said, because they jab with their right hand. Walker prepared Carrington by having her spar with male southpaws at his gym.

"We've been training for Jill," he said prior to the Golden Gloves tournament. "She leads with her right hand. Charmaine hasn't fought many lefties, so she wasn't really conditioned for that. It's new to her, so we've worked on technique for that."

The Golden Gloves tournament was a good news/bad news event for Walker and Carrington. The bad news was that Jill Emery didn't fight in the tournament. The good news was that Carrington defeated three other females and won the championship in the 138-pound division.

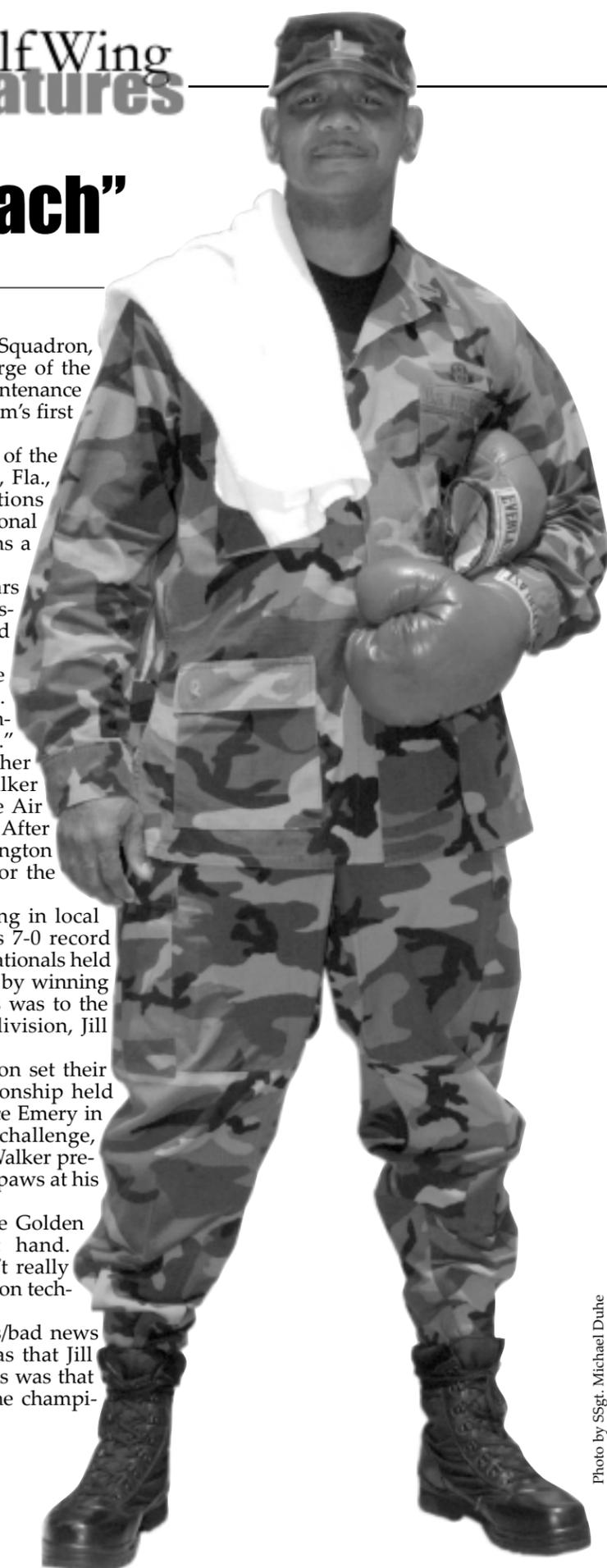


Photo by SSgt. Michael Duhe

"She did great and I'm really proud of her," Walker said.

For now, it's back to the gym for Walker and Carrington to train for another national tournament in September. Walker's training regimen for Carrington is demanding. A typical training session begins with a three-mile warm-up run, followed by "loosening-up" exercises and three rounds of shadow boxing. From there, its three sequences on the heavy bag and several sets with Walker, who puts on hand mitts, to focus on power, technique and form. The workout continues with jump rope and then sparring.

"Usually, sparring will start on Tuesday or Wednesday, and we spar the rest of the week," Walker said.

When preparing for a tournament, training will start three weeks out, according to Walker, and intensifies with a lot of sparring until about three or four days before the fight. At that point, the focus shifts to working on speed and agility.

A good training session will last about an hour and a half, Walker said.

"Right now, she's looking pretty sharp," Walker commented. "One thing about Charmaine, she's got the heart and determination. That's one of the main aspects to have if you're going to be a fighter. She's very confident. That's something good about Charmaine...she's very relaxed and knows what she can do and she doesn't mind going a little further. She knows there's nobody in her way except for Jill."

Carrington credits much of her success to Walker's ring experience and intense training.



Photo by SSgt. Jerron Barnett

Staff Sgt. Charmaine Carrington takes pointers from her coach, Dennis Walker. Carrington is the first female on the Air Force boxing team. She will box in her first national match June 18. Carrington is a weapons-load crew chief assigned to the 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla. Walker is assigned to the 403rd LRS.

"He's helped me improve in every skill," Carrington said. "You have to remember, I started with Coach Walker — what I know now I learned from him. If I pick up anything from anywhere else, I bring it to my coach and we go from there."

"I've come extremely far," she continued. "It's only been two years now and I am among the best in the country. This year I will be ranked up there with women who have been boxing a lot longer than I've even been interested in this sport. I went from just dabbling with the thought of competing to not dreaming of doing anything else."

Walker started boxing when he was 14 years old. He joined the Air Force while fighting as an amateur until age 30, then turned pro. As a professional boxer, he fought in eight fights in the southern region (Mississippi, south Florida and Texas) and racked up a record of five wins, two losses and one draw.

He also fought on the Air

Force Boxing Team for two years and was champion of the middleweight division in 1980. In 1981, he left active duty and began coaching the Air Force Boxing Team.

During his enlisted career, he was an air cargo specialist and maintenance analyst before serving as a gunner aboard the AC-130 gunship for 14 years at Duke Field, Fla. Walker earned his commission in 1998.

Currently, many of the young boxers who train in Walker's gym are Air Force members. He remains in close contact with Air Force Boxing Team coaches at Lackland AFB and, when he sees a young boxer with promise, will arrange a try-out at Lackland.

He's also trained national champions, including Malcolm Tann, who is now a successful professional boxer, and has fought on the same card as Muhammad Ali.

Walker said he enjoys being a coach. "I've been

doing it a long time. I enjoy it because you can see the final results. You take someone who's not very coordinated or doesn't have much confidence. They'll work with me for one or two months and then they start doing things they didn't think they could do. You put them in the ring against a competitor and they have a glow on their face. They're happy."

Kids as young as seven years old will come into the gym, wanting to train. Walker sees a bigger picture with training young people. "It's not just the boxing — it's the interaction with young people. It helps build character and responsibility. There's a whole lot more to it than the boxing that makes it enjoyable."

Walker's outlook is not lost on Carrington.

"I look up to Lt. Walker as more than just a coach," she commented. "Anyone can put 'coach' in front of their name. He actually cares about all of his boxers, ones with little or no experience to the ones who've been training for a long time with someone else. He looks out for all of us even outside of the gym. We all greatly respect Lt. Walker and think he is a wonderful role model."

Carrington is also grateful for Walker's dedication and support.

"Lt. Walker has always given me a great deal of support in everything I do," she said. "He has sacrificed a tremendous amount of his personal time to ensure I have the chance to participate in numerous events this year while having his own hectic schedule to balance. This included late-night and weekend training when work schedules conflict and traveling around the country to tournaments."

Manager Award

Master Sgt. Buddy Goff was recently awarded Air Education and Training Command's Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Civilian Manager of the Year 2002 award.

Education Online

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about your education benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide you, the "student", a one-stop-shop for all your higher education needs.

Register for your own AFVEC Account and get access to services like online CCAF Transcript Request or Degree Progress Report. Your own personal start page organizes your interests and keeps you up to date with your local education center's news and events. Sign up at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec>

myPay Service

A revamped website is providing military and civilian DoD employees with easier access and greater control over their pay accounts.

The site, formerly E/MSS, is located at <https://emss.dfas.mil/my pay.asp>. The site requires a PIN number to access information such as Leave and Earnings Statements.

Recycle Uniforms

The Ocean Springs-Keesler Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol is in need of Air Force uniforms (both BDUs and all combinations of blues, including boots, shoes, belts and hats) to provide to cadets. The cadets are all volunteers who are required to provide their own uniforms to participate in many activities provided by the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

If you have spare uniforms you no longer need, and are looking to make

extra room in your closets, the CAP would love to take them off of your hands. All sizes are appreciated.

Call Marie Haberstroh at 377-3248 or Kevin McDowell at 377-3247.

Service Commitment

Starting Oct. 1, Air Force Reserve Command will implement a comprehensive service-commitment directive for certain kinds of training, education and promotions. The Reserve Service Commitment Policy will affect reservists in the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve's Health Professions Scholarship Program and the IRR's Financial Assistance Program. The RSC will include unit program

reservists, individual mobilization augmentees and members of the Active Guard and Reserve. Air Force reservists in the rank of colonel and below incur a service obligation if they attend formal training or education for 20 weeks or longer, receive a promotion in the top three enlisted grades, or enlist in the service for the first time.

Robinson wins

Tech. Sgt. Tina Robinson is celebrating a first place win in the AETC/AAU National Powerlifting championships. She took top honors at the competition in July in her first national-level event. Even though she won, Robinson said she didn't lift as well as she knows she can.

That just leaves her with room for improvement in future competitions, she said.

E-Voting Expanded

A voting experiment in the 2000 presidential elections that allowed military and overseas voters to cast their ballots through the Internet will expand in 2004. For information, see the website at www.serveusa.gov

New Uniforms?

A prototype of the new Air Force utility uniform was unveiled July 9 in various duty sections at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. and Bolling AFB, D.C. Wear testing begins in January. Wearers and observers will provide input via an official website.

Gulf Wing Reflections

Original photo taken in Grenada in 1983.



Homeward Bound

American medical students in Grenada board an Air Force C-141 flown by an Air Force Reserve crew from the 315th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Maj. Charles Ethredge, 315th MAW chief of safety, commanded the crew that brought the first evacuees back to Charleston Oct. 28, 1983. Today Brig. Gen. Ethredge commands the 403rd Wing at Keesler AFB, Miss. (Inset) Ethredge circa 1983.

Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike J. Green

Wing gains people

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Air Force Reserve Command units lose a net 1,156 drill and 75 civilian positions as a result of personnel and aircraft realignment, according to an Air Force force announcement July 23.

The 403rd Wing, however, will gain positions in the realignment. The wing gains seven civilian and seven drill authorizations as a result of a crew ratio increase for authorized aircraft.

The announcement addresses the fiscal year 2004 President's Budget force structure, realignment and management actions required to achieve efficiencies, modernize or make organizational changes, said Air Force officials.

The force structure announcement calls for reducing 1,249 and increasing 93 drill authorizations, losing 141 and gaining 66 civilian positions, and adding 12 full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions.

These and other changes affect Reserve units at 28 locations but do not change this year's projected end strength of 75,600 reservists for the command. The president's proposal for FY 2004 calls for an additional 200 reservists in the Reserve.

As in years past, force structure reductions in manning authorizations at some locations will be partially offset by replacement aircraft and mission changes.

AFRC News Service

Reservist found guilty of illegal computer activity

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—A mobilized staff sergeant was convicted July 22 at a general court-martial at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The reservist was tried and found guilty of wrongfully and knowingly possessing visual depictions of minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The images were found on two government computers used by the reservist, as well as his home computer.

He was convicted of violating Uniform Code of Military Justice Articles 92, failure to obey a lawful general regulation, and Article 134, engaging in conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.

The staff sergeant was sentenced to reduction to E-1, total forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a bad conduct discharge and military

confinement for nine months. He is currently in a military confinement facility awaiting final review of his case. Under the UCMJ, the maximum sentence could have included seven years confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

After information was received in August 2002 alleging illegal activity on the part of the reservist, the Air Force Office of Special Investigation launched a formal investigation. The AFOSI employed a computer crime expert to investigate charges dating back to 2002.

After reviewing AFOSI's investigation, Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center, referred charges against the staff sergeant to a general court-martial.

AFRC News Service



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Haggerty

Thanks for the memories

Airmen around the world mourn the loss of Bob Hope, one of only two Americans ever to be made an honorary Veteran of America's Armed Forces. He was 100. In this photo, Hope entertains the troops with a 10-minute monologue in 1990 after a ceremony to rename the Thunderbird Theater here as the Bob Hope Performing Arts Center. The ceremony honored Hope's 50 years of entertaining American armed forces around the world. Hope called the troops his "best friends" and made it his mission to be with them wherever they served, regardless of distance or danger. His final tour, at age 90, took him to the Persian Gulf and the men and women of Operation Desert Storm.

Split disbursement mandatory

WASHINGTON—All military travelers must now select the split disbursement option on their travel voucher claims to directly pay their government travel card expenses.

Split disbursement requires travelers to tally up their GTC expenses and authorize enough funds to be sent automatically to Bank of America to pay off their charges. Any remaining travel settlement will still be sent to the traveler's personal account.

Nearly half of all Air Force travelers already use split disbursement on a regular basis when filing their vouchers because it simplifies the process for them.

Air Force Print News



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Kicking the tires

Capt. Dan Windham, a pilot with the 815th Airlift Squadron, exits a Coast Guard Falcon airframe that was visiting Keesler in August. The Coast Guard would provide primary transport for Keesler CCATT teams. The 815th AS could also provide transport when possible.

Gulf Wing Go-Getter



Each month the Gulf Wing is printed for people of the 403rd Wing, like Staff Sgt. Gregory Jones of 403rd Services.

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To The Family Of: