

ASSOCIATE PRESS

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A Look Inside the Associate Press

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March 2003

McChord's Home Team

Volume 25, Issue 3

Reservists heed call to duty

More than 320 446th Airlift Wing airmen activate

In a partial mobilization, more than 320 reservists were activated in February to support the war on terrorism and possible confrontation with Iraq.

More than 240 Reserve aircrew members, some notified on Valentine's Day, were told to pack their bags and report to McChord. Also activated were about a dozen maintainers, more than 20 aeromedical evacuation specialists and three members of the critical care air transportation team. These recently activated reservists join about 40 security forces reservists activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

Some of the activated Reserve aircrew members will augment the active-duty 62nd Airlift Wing and operate C-17 Globemaster III in support of the global war on terrorism and to prepare for future contingencies as may be directed. The aircraft are flying out of Charleston AFB, S.C.

Reserve aircraft maintainers were mobilized to active-duty status Feb. 22. Most of them are currently deployed to Charleston AFB and were activated there.

The nearly 20 aeromedical evacuation reservists provide in-flight medical care aboard mission-directed aircraft used to airlift patients. At the same time, they provide operational and mission management support at aerial ports supporting aeromedical evacuation operations. Critical Care Air Transport teams, known as CCAT, provide the critical care expertise and capability to monitor and



Photo by Maj. John Devose
Members of a critical care air transport team load a "patient" on a CH-47 helicopter during training at Fort Lewis. Three CCAT members are among the more than 320 wing reservists activated in February.

manage patients in transit to hospitals. They enhance the aeromedical evacuation system in transferring critically ill patients who require continuous stabilization and advanced care during air transportation.

For many of the activated reservists, the activations came as no surprise.

"I have no (immediate) family, so for me it was just a change in uniforms," said Maj. Karen Pastoret, a 728th Airlift Squadron pilot, as well as an Alaska Airline pilot. "I've been prepared for awhile. I watch the news ... we're always at a state of readiness."

For many of the reservists who flew out this week, it was big relief to finally be called.

"I'm not surprised," said Chief Master Sgt. D.T. Thompson, 728th Airlift Squadron loadmaster. "It's been a long time coming ... it was on the horizon."

The 27-year Air Force veteran, who leaves behind a wife who's also a military member with the 446th Airlift Wing, said his mother is quite concerned about his activation; however, she "understands what is involved and supports all the troops," he said.

As part of the Ready Reserve, the 446th AW is made up of 2,300 trained reservists who may be recalled to active duty to aug-

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Sunday, March 24 is the deadline for articles in the April issue of the

446th Associate Press.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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'This is to inform you that you have been activated ...'

By Brig. Gen. Tom Gisler Jr.

◆ Commander

We have been talking about being ready to mobilize for months and now we are living it.

Two 446th Airlift Wing flying squadrons, aircraft maintenance reservists, aeromedical evacuation personnel, and others have been partially mobilized for one year with a DOD option for a second year.

Even the smoothest activation has its obstacles. The first is the difficulty of making the quick transition to active duty. You can have all your records in order and your family discussions done, but it is still a shock to hear those words, "This is to inform you that you have been activated..."



There is a lot of information that each reservist and his or her family needs to know to successfully navigate through a mobilization.

Tom Gisler Jr.

given paperwork to fill out for everything from pay to programs supporting your family while you are activated.

There is a lot of information coming at you in a short period of time so it can feel like a fire hose. But there are printed handouts, web sites, and professionals available to help people with questions, get what they need.

Then there is the mission. You all know how to do your job so this actually may be the most comfortable part of the whole process. But the mission can be to new places and with new people.



Brig. Gen. Tom Gisler Jr.

Missions can be longer hours and longer periods of time away from home. It is easy to become stressed and fatigued. Unfamiliar surroundings and fatigue can equal mistakes and injuries unless everyone stays vigilant and takes care of each other.

When you are gone, it is important to stay in touch. First, with your family. The Family Support Center has free phone cards for your use while you are gone. They also have videophones, which you and your family can use if you are at a facility with the machines. There are packets of stationery and envelopes for your children to use to send you letters. It is important that you know your family is doing well and they know the same about you.

If things don't go well, like a family emergency, the American Red Cross is the way to get to you. Ultimately, it is the commander's decision whether or not to bring you home, but your family should have access to a contact for the Red Cross at the ready, just in case.

Stay in touch with your employer too. We in the airlift business have asked a lot of them in the past and, if you are mobilized, it can put a strain on them and your relationship. Make sure they know they can call the 446th Public Affairs office if they have questions or concerns about your mobilization. We will help them as much as we can.

Finally, I want to thank you for making the commitment you have to the Air Force Reserve and to the people of this country. I appreciate the sacrifices you have made to be here. Throughout our history, people of this nation have made sacrifices to uphold the ideals that founded this land. Those ideals are still true and just as strong today.

The sacrifices you are making now will help preserve this nation and our way of life for our families and generations to come. I am proud of each and every one of you. God bless in everything you do.

A conversation with ...

Brig. Gen. Robert Duignan, Director of Plans and Programs, Air Force Reserve Command

Editor's Note: *He calls Washington state home, but Brig. Gen. Robert Duignan returned here in February to speak to the 446th Airlift Wing's people at the annual awards banquet. Duignan is Director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins AFB, Ga. He is responsible for developing strategic plans and programs supporting the command's units. He also provides command manpower management, programming of major equipment requirements and organizational development. During his visit, Duignan shared his thoughts on a variety of subjects.*



This is my first time flying in the jet. And it's great. I was really impressed by the aircraft's capabilities and the lay out.

Dennis Duigan

You're from the Pacific Northwest. How does it feel coming back?

It feels great. I try to come back at least every other year. Usually, it's in August, though.

You got to fly the C-17. What did you think?

This is my first time flying in the jet. And it's great. I was really impressed by the aircraft's capabilities and the lay out. It must be a dream to fly.

We did a lot on the flight. We did an air refueling, a combat landing (in Moses Lake), and a short field landing. Then we took on a full load of cargo and passengers at Moses Lake and flew back to McChord. The crew really worked together. It's a real advantage to have the experienced people we do in the Reserve. They did a great job.

It's hard to imagine all the qualifications required for this aircraft. I flew the C-141 for so long, it was easy to just get back in the jet and fly. This is a more complicated aircraft and mission and it takes a lot of time to stay qualified.

Secretary Rumsfeld has spoken out lately on the need to put some of the missions currently in the Reserve back in to the active duty. How does that affect airlift, the C-17 and the associate program?

Before 9/11, Secretary Rumsfeld was looking to re-engineer the military. After 9/11, the requirements increased dramatically and the active duty can't support those requirements without the use of Reserve and Guard forces. What I think the secretary is saying is that, if we are in this for the long haul, we can't use Reserve forces for what is now steady state operations. That needs to be an active duty function.

What that could mean for the Reserve is a change in some missions. There are all kinds of possibilities including space.

How does that apply to the airlift business?

In the big airplane business, I don't see a significant change. We have been very successful in making this work whenever we need to.

The associate program has received a lot of attention at the highest levels. There is talk of putting associate units in the National Guard and growing the program in the Air Force Reserve. What is your take on that?

We just signed agreements with Air Combat Command to put associate units at Shaw, Eglin, Langley, and Hill AFBs. They won't be the same kind of unit you have here at McChord. We will put experienced pilots in active duty squadrons. It will get us into the F-15 business eventually. We've got a lot of people in the Reserve who can provide experience and continuity to these units.

We are evolving the program.

We got the notice that mobilized reservists in AEF rotation billets will remain in place indefinitely. Do you see AEF changing in light of current world events?

We will ask for volunteers deployed for AEF to stay in place if they can. We know there are people who will be able to step up



Brig. Gen. Robert Duignan

to that. Others can't. They will perform their AEF rotation on a regular basis.

AEF was built to meet the ongoing needs of the theater commanders for operations like Southern and Northern Watch. But there is a point where the resources available in a given AEF cycle are saturated and you need more resources to meet the theater commanders needs.

The secretary of defense wants to use active duty troops before disrupting reservists and their families and employers, first of all. Having said that, this isn't going to over quickly. We are going to be asking more and more of the entire military.

You graduated from the University of Washington and we know you are a Husky fan. What do you have to say to all those Cougar fans out there?

Well, I root for the Huskies when they play the Cougars, definitely. But I root for both teams otherwise. At first, I actually rooted for the Cougs in the Apple Cup this year because they had a good chance to go to the Rose Bowl and I didn't think the Huskies would. But, when I saw the Dawgs pulling ahead, I changed my mind.

Reserve mortuary team supports astronauts

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay

◆ Wing Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Pitts was listening so intently to the radio coverage of the crash of the Space Shuttle Columbia while on his way in for the unit training assembly weekend Feb. 1, that he drove right by the McChord AFB exit off of Interstate 5.

All day long, Pitts and other 446th Services Flight professionals would find themselves seeking more information about the crash and seeing and hearing all the personal stories of the seven astronauts.

Little did they know, Pitts and two others from his flight would be handpicked to travel to Dover AFB, Del., to help identify and prepare the remains of the seven members of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Pitts said, normally, he tries not to learn anything personal about the people he will work on before he departs for his mortuary affairs duties.

"It never dawned on me that we'd be involved with this whatsoever," Pitts said. "First, it was a NASA mission. Second, the criteria for us to go for a mass casualty operation is for there to be more than 10 people (killed)."

On Feb. 2, the call came for McChord reservists to join the mortuary affairs team for the astronauts. Three members of the 446th Services Flight were selected based on their experience. Joining Pitts were Tech. Sgts. Steve Harris and Anita Barnes.

As a command, the Air Force Reserve has 266 reservists in 10 port mortuary units from around the United States. These reservists provide 74 percent of the Air Force's port mortuary capability.

The McChord reservists left Feb. 4 and joined 10 other Air Force reservists at Dover's Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs the next day as the C-141 Starlifter carrying the remains of the astronauts arrived at Dover from Barksdale AFB, La. Aboard the aircraft were seven coffin-like transfer cases symbolizing Columbia's seven crew members. Six of the cases were

draped with American flags; the seventh with the flag of Israel in honor of Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon.

At the Carson Center, the reservists helped prepare the remains as quickly as possible for return to the next-of-kin and final burial arrangements. The remains were inspected, identified and prepared with the utmost dignity and respect by the mortuary professionals, according to the McChord team. They assisted with forensic procedures, including dental record checks, fingerprinting and bone analysis. DNA samples were taken and forwarded to other facilities for evaluation.

Barnes said NASA and the FBI won't allow her to give too many details about the handling of the remains. But she said NASA will learn valuable lessons from this experience. "No one has ever fallen from 30 miles high before," she said.

Like Pitts, neither Harris nor Barnes ever thought there was a possibility of performing their mortuary affairs duties for the seven astronauts.

"This is going to sound really hard, but normally when we go and do what we have to do, we don't know of the peoples' family, history, kids or even what they looked like before being injured; we don't want to know," Barnes said. "This time, it was totally different. This time, we knew so much about them – this time we knew of their lives."

The normal working day was 12 hours long, according to the team. Each of the reservists worked on all seven of the astronauts. And even though they were selected for their experience, the mortuary team was still being trained.

"It was a good overall learning experience for me," Harris said. "We all got to do some things that we haven't done before or

work in areas we haven't in a while."

What he and the other reservists did was help tell a story. Help in the investigation of what caused the explosion. Like the mechanical engineers putting back the pieces of the debris from the shuttle, Harris said examining the remains helps with one piece of a very large puzzle.

"We work closely with the medical examiner and learn as we go," Harris said. "The remains tell a story; the bones tell a story. It's just a small part of the story, but it all has to be assembled to get an idea about exactly what happened."

Harris said there was no question he was performing his duties in a highly visible mission. There would be many times when there were watchful groups, either NASA, the FBI or delegates from Israel, overseeing the operation.

"I'm not trying to sound like we're cocky, but we knew what we were doing," Harris said. "I didn't have the time to worry about who was looking over my shoulder when I was working. I wasn't worried about making mistakes. If I did have a question or wasn't sure if I was doing something right, I just asked the doc."

Two Air Force officers were among the seven astronauts lost when the Space Shuttle Columbia apparently broke apart at 9 a.m. EST Feb. 1 in the area over north central Texas. Col. Rick Husband was the mission commander and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson was the payload commander. Also, two of the astronauts had Washington state ties – Anderson, from Spokane, and Cmdr. William McCool was stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island twice in his Navy career.

Those Air Force and Washington ties made it a little more special for Barnes, a native of Tacoma, to be a part of the team.

"I'm usually a very emotional person, but I didn't cry for them when I worked on them. They died doing what they loved to do. They are heroes – they are the elite. It was an honor."



The remains tell a story ... it all has to be assembled to get an idea about exactly what happened.

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Jim Pitts



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Anita Barnes

Resources ease transition as reservists across the wing activate and mobilize

By Staff Sgt. Heather Hanson
◆ Wing Public Affairs

In the 446th Airlift Wing, there is no “if” about getting activated or mobilized. With two full squadrons and reservists from other squadrons already called to duty, the time to be prepared was yesterday.

But, there is still time and plenty of information and resources for reservists in the wing to help ease the transition from citizen-airman to full military life.

Possibly one of the first concerns of reservists with families is how to take care of their families.

Family Support Available

The 446th AW has a Family Support Program that offers reservists and their families all the help they need before, during, and after activation.

“We have a wealth of information on generic mobilization and deployment informa-

tion,” said Linda Rieth, 446th AW Family Support Center director. “Our office stands ready to provide assistance with any other issues or concerns you may have during this time. Our extensive network of military and civilian resources throughout the United States makes our office a one-stop resource center for all of your family needs.”

The Family Support Center also has a package for reservists and their families that is packed with information to aid those who are activated or mobilized. The packages can be picked up at the Family Support Center or by calling (253) 982-5330 or 1-888-984-5330.

Employer Information

After taking care of the family, another concern for reservists could be the status of their civilian job. Good communication between a reservist and his or her employer can help both understand their rights and responsibilities in a confusing time.

There is plenty of information and resources available to educate reservists and, in turn, their employers. The first place to go is the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve web site located at www.esgr.org.

In addition to the web site, reservists can visit the 446th AW Public Affairs Office with any questions or concerns or just to learn about how they can keep the relationship positive with their employers during their active-duty time.

“It is very important to stay in touch with your employer while you are activated,” said Maj. Anna Sullivan, chief of public affairs. “You not only need to notify your employer when you get activated or mobilized, and deactivated and demobilized, stay in touch with them in between too.”

The public affairs office doesn’t just take complaints. Reservists can also show their appreciation for their employer.

“If you have an employer who has been very good, we have a very easy awards program,” Sullivan said. “We can give you information about this program too.”

Finance

For information regarding pay entitlements, the 446th AW Financial Management



office is available, but for travel entitlements and information contact the 62nd AW financial management office at (253) 982-2549. For reservists who are activated or mobilized and are deploying elsewhere, it may prove difficult to query pay issues. But having a family member with the right paperwork can make the situation much easier.

“Make sure you have a power of attorney; family members can’t do anything without it,” said Tech. Sgt. Jasmine Dantzler, 446th AW military pay technician. As long as reservists have a person who comes in with a power of attorney, they can get information regarding the account and make changes.

In addition to the power of attorney, reservists should make sure their information in the pay system is correct.

The process of updating an individual record through customer service is changing and all reservists—activated, mobilized or not—need to know the proper way to update their records.

ID Cards, Emergency Data

The new Virtual Record of Emergency Data form is replacing the Standard Form 93, Record of Emergency Data. The form is available on-line only and will be mandatory by June 2003.

“In the future, if someone gets hurt in the field, the emergency will be taken from their vRED,” said Chief Master Sgt. Janice

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Web offers links to helpful sites

◆ Veterans Administration Assistance Office offers medical, compensation, reemployment, insurance and home loan benefits — 800-827-1000 or www.va.gov.

◆ Air Force Reserve Command — <https://www.afrcmil.af.mil>. Note the “Hot” button for mobilization guidance. This site can only be reached from a military computer.

◆ Air Force Crossroads — www.afcrossroads.com.

◆ United Services Organization — www.uso.org

◆ Armed Forces Vacation Club — www.afvclub.com.

◆ Employer Support of Guard and Reserve www.esgr.org

◆ www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal for a helpful military legal web site.

Help available for mobilized reservists paying child support

Mobilized reservists who have a child support order can seek assistance from their state child support agency.

- ◆ Level of income has changed or will change as the result of mobilization. They may be eligible for the agency to review and adjust the amount of their support order.

- ◆ Support payments are withheld from military paycheck. The state agency can ensure the withholding is transferred to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service on a timely basis to prevent or minimize missed payments.

- ◆ A child support hearing is scheduled. The agency can tell the court or hearing officer about the reservist's service status and can attempt to have the hearing rescheduled.

- ◆ The child support order includes health care coverage. Children of mobilized reservists are eligible for TRICARE health coverage, and the agency may be able to help enroll them in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

If people owe \$5,000 or more in past-due child support, their passports are withheld until arrangements are made with the state child support agency for paying off the debt.

Some states require the debt to be paid before the passport is made available. If reservists need a passport to complete their military duties, this could create a problem for them, as well as their assigned military unit.

For more information on child support issues, mobilized Air Force reservists can contact the nearest active-duty legal office or their Air Force Reserve Command wing legal office. They can also obtain more information from state child support enforcement agencies on the Web.

DOD has help at www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal. (AFRC News Service)

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Kallinen, 446th Mission Support Squadron chief of personnel programs. It is important to keep it updated, because the person on that card is the one who will be notified if something happens.”

Another card to update is the DOD Identification card.

“It is not a requirement to get an active-duty ID card, but if family members want to use military medical benefits they need to have it,” Kallinen said. “Family members should have this card and have the most current information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System so they can get the medical entitlements they need.”

After family members are enrolled in DEERS they can be enrolled in the TRICARE Prime plan and are authorized to use the military

medical treatment facilities. For more information about TRICARE, log on to its web site at www.tricare.osd.mil. Home of record regional representatives are also available at the TRICARE web site.

Legal Issues

Another part of being ready and staying ready for activation or mobilization is ensuring all necessary legal documents reservists need are up-to-date and ready. The 62nd AW Legal Office will help those who are activated or mobilized and can be reached at 253-982-5512. All other reservists can see the 446th AW Legal Office on UTA weekends to complete, review or update their wills, powers of attorney, and special powers of attorney.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Pallets line the flightline at Charleston AFB, S.C., where many McChord aircrews from the 446th Airlift Wing are currently operating. The work load at the Charleston's 437th Aerial Port Squadron increased an estimated 250 percent after two cargo buildings at Dover AFB, Del., collapsed under snow

from a blizzard. Charleston had already experienced an increase in operations tempo when Air Mobility Command designated it as the hub for missions support Operation Enduring Freedom and the buildup for a possible conflict in Iraq.

Family support: When reservists activate, everyone must pitch in

By Sandra Pishner
◆ Wing Public Affairs

Pay, medical, a shoulder to lean on. All these subjects were covered in meetings with families of reservists activated in February.

About 320 airmen of the 446th Airlift Wing were activated mid-February, leaving many families to cope with understanding benefits suddenly available to them.

Understanding benefits may turn out to be the easy part. Understanding how to handle the emotions that come with an activated and deployed family member's absence is more difficult.



They need to call, write and continue to be involved in each other's lives. Especially the children's.

Linda Rieth

According to Linda Rieth, 446th AW Family Support Center, having the right information and knowing whom to call is important to supporting families of reservists.

Some of the resources available at the 446th AW Family Support Center to help families deal with deployments include deployment planners, letter-writing kits, long distance couples activities handbooks, and books that provide advice on parenting from a distance. Equally important to having advice on handling family separations is getting guidance on preparing for the return of a military member after an extended absence. A guide titled "After the Call," can help families understand the reunion process.

But the most important resource for surviving a separation is the family and reservist.

"Communication between the family and the reservist is key," said Rieth. "They need to make sure they talk about what needs to be done in the reservist's absence. They need to call, write and continue to be involved in each other's lives. Especially the children's."

For Fevilyn Morley, wife to Maj. Ben Morley, 97th Airlift Squadron, being open and flexible is a necessity when deployments bring uncertainty to family life.

"Ben and I have been married four years. My first year as a military wife was bad," said Morley. "Not knowing when he would be home, or expecting him home on a certain day only to have his mission extended, led to a lot of frustration and stress."

Now, Morley knows better how to handle life with a reservists.

"If he tells me one thing and it changes, I have to accept that. To do otherwise can bring heartache, or bitterness," she said. "When expectations are set and then not met because the plane breaks or the mission is extended, then you are really let down. You have to be more flexible and ask yourself 'how can I help with the situation and what I can do relieve stress rather than adding to it.'"

Keeping in touch with spouses of other deployed reservists is something Morley encourages. "I go and try to seek out other ladies when their spouse is gone," she said. "I give them my number and tell them to come over to the house anytime they need to talk. It is very helpful to be with other people going through the same situation."



Photo by Sandra Pishner

The Bertsch family (left to right), Courtney, Bobby, Master Sgt. Robert Bertsch, and his wife Kyong, learn about TRICARE and family support, among other topics, during a family briefing for activated reservists at the 728th Airlift Squadron. Sons Sean and Nicholas, not pictured, were also at the meeting.

Squadrons have an equally vital role in supporting the families of their reservists. Letting family members know they're important and encouraging them to network with others in the same situation is one way of conveying the squadron's concern.

"The 728th really believes that a key piece of accomplishing our mission is to take care of our people first. Concentration on the families is an integral part of this," said Lt. Col. Michael Mahan, 728th Airlift Squadron commander. "We have published rosters of the other spouses and of squadron key personnel, and given those to the spouses. The spouses were encouraged to contact one another and to get together in informal support groups. We have told them to contact any of us in the squadron, anytime, when they have questions, concerns, or just want to talk."

Informal support groups will be supplemented by organized activities for family members in the 728th AS.

"We are working hard to keep family members involved during this activation. We intend to organize events for the spouses and family members periodically. We also intend to have social events for the entire squadron if scheduling allows," Mahan said.

Keeping in touch, using Family Support Center resources, and asking for help when you need it will lighten the load during family separations. Taking care of each other is what being part of the larger, 446th AW family is all about.



You have to be more flexible and ask yourself 'how can I help with the situation and what I can do relieve stress rather than adding to it.

Fevilyn Morley

Idea pays off for Reserve maintainer

By Staff Sgt. Heather Hanson
◆ Wing Public Affairs

Having an idea is one thing. Getting paid \$10,000 for it is another.

Master Sgt. Norm Stogsdill, an aircraft structural technician from the 446th Maintenance Squadron knows this firsthand. He was presented with a \$10,000 check Feb. 12, for a suggestion he tested and submitted to the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program.

The IDEA program was started in 1997 to identify ways to save the Air Force money through innovation, and replaced its predecessor, the Suggestion Program.

Stogsdill submitted a suggestion to the IDEA program last fall to lower the cost and repair time it took to fix the landing gear doors on the C-17. Every C-17 that returned from a semi-prepared runway was returning with damage to the landing gear doors.

"It took at least three days and up to a full week, and \$2,500 to \$2,900 to repair the damage on these airframes," Stogsdill said. "Since the protection system has been implemented, there has been zero damage to the returning aircraft."

Statistics so dramatic were made possible by an idea so simple. All Stogsdill suggested was a piece of foam and some high impact tape be fitted on the landing gear door.

"The planes still have rocks and debris when they come back, but it is stuck in the foam," Stogsdill said. "This only costs about \$5 and takes a lot less time to fix."

And for his suggestion, Stogsdill re-

ceived the maximum award available under the program.

Even though getting the money was great, Stogsdill's road to the cash was a little bumpy.

He first submitted his idea on an Air Force Form 22, but the suggestion he submitted was rejected because it was on the wrong form. While he was filling out the right form, the Air Force wanted to implement the idea so quickly they changed the technical order, manuals used by technicians when they complete repairs on the plane.

When the right paperwork was submitted, the change was already in place.

"I really would like to thank Diana Landreaux, the 62nd Airlift Wing IDEA program manager, for putting in a lot of extra work on this case," Stogsdill said. "She really helped a lot."

Landreaux admits this particular case did have some interesting aspects to it, but credits Stogsdill for its success.

"Norm was an integral part of the whole process," Landreaux said. "The IDEA program is not a perfect process. But, we worked

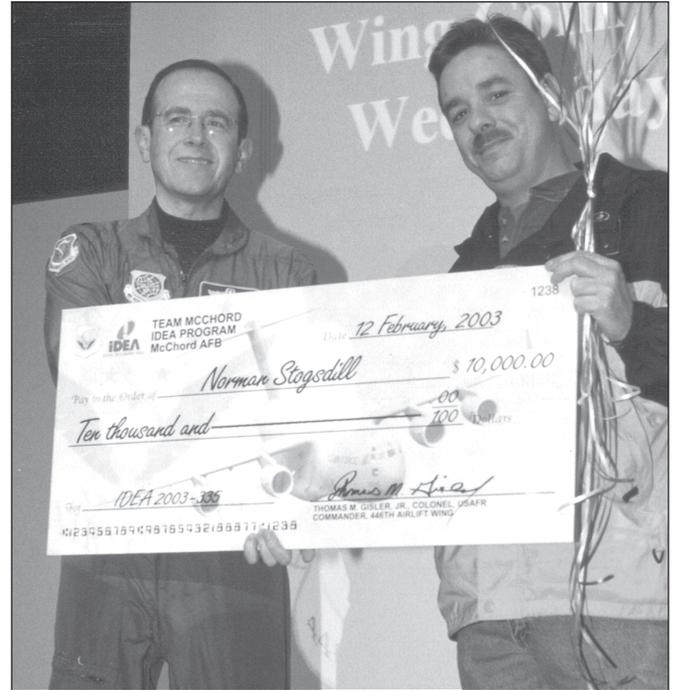


Photo by Adamarie Lewis Page
Brig. Gen. Tom Gisler Jr., 446th Airlift Wing commander (left) presents an oversized check for \$10,000 to Master Sgt. Norm Stogsdill, 446th Maintenance Squadron. Stogsdill's suggestion to protect C-17s from damage, is saving the Air Force \$260,000 per year.

with him to make sure the outcome was satisfactory."

And the outcome was obviously satisfactory because Stogsdill did get the money, right when it will come in handy.

"We're expecting our second child in two months," he said. "The money will help."

As for any more ideas he may have to submit, Stogsdill isn't talking other than to say he has a few more.

ACTIVATE

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ment active forces in time of war or national emergency. The reservists are ready and can be mobilized within 72 hours. Reservists support the Air Mobility Command mission and around the world on a daily basis, performing about 25 percent of McChord's missions annually.

With only a short-notice call up, the biggest concerns for the reservists is taking care of the little things and making sure family members are taken care of in their absence.

"There are always challenges," explained Thompson. "Most importantly, we get ev-

eryone prepared and support the people left behind ... families need to know they are being taken care of, too."

The partial mobilization of reservists is for one year with an option for a second. The notion of "one weekend a month, two weeks a year" is becoming increasingly rare, said Brig. Gen. Tom Gisler, Jr., 446th AW commander.

While Maj. Tim Greminger, 728th Airlift Squadron pilot, leaves behind his pregnant wife and infant, one issue he's not concerned about is his civilian job, even though it's not clear how long he will be activated. "It's going to be there when we return," said the major, also an Alaska Airlines pilot. "They

have been great, even before 9/11."

Many of the activated reservists will be working out of Charleston AFB, S.C., to assist Charleston airmen who are facing increased operations tempo. The increased operations began when Air Mobility Command established the base as a staging location for C-17 crews flying cargo and passenger airlift missions in support of current deployments. In addition, a collapsed cargo hangar at Dover AFB, Del., has required many airlift missions to be diverted to Charleston, adding work to the already busy port. (Staff Sgt. Angela Eggman, 62nd AW Public Affairs, and 446th AW/PA staff contributed to this report)

Team tests C-17 egress, airdrop abilities

Each test supports AMC combat mission needs

By Rob Bardua

◆ Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs

An Air Force test team set out from Edwards AFB, Calif., Feb. 2 on a C-17 Globemaster III to conduct egress and airdrop tests with help from soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Each of the tests supports a combat mission needs statement from Air Mobility Command. The egress testing will evaluate the emergency procedures for 190 people should the aircraft need to be evacuated while on the ground.

“What the test does is allow us to qualify a new palletized seating system for use on the C-17,” said Maj. Monty Greer, director of the C-17 test team. “We’ll load up the aircraft with people and cargo and then time how long it takes to get 190 people off the airplane using only two exit doors. Our goal is to get everyone off the aircraft in 90 seconds, which is also (a Federal Aviation Administration) standard.”

As for the airdrop tests, Greer said they will be done in two phases. Each phase is designed to increase the maximum gross weight the C-17 can airdrop people from.

The first phase will increase the weight from the current 385,000-pound limit to 425,000 pounds for single door paratrooper operations, Greer said.

“The increased allowable weight trans-

lates to more fuel on board when the aircraft reaches its drop zone, which allows AMC to take the C-17 to places that can’t currently be reached because of limitations on where a refueling tanker can operate,” said Greer. “The goal is to go further into hostile skies, drop paratroopers and then get back to where more fuel is located.”

The second phase of the airdrop testing will be conducted at 400,000 pounds with Army paratroopers jumping out simultaneously through dual doors.

“One of the concerns with dual-door operations is that when they go out simultaneously, they can come back together behind the aircraft and become entangled with each other,” said Greer. “This test is designed to look at this center-lining tendency as well as the overall effect of the increased gross-weight flight conditions on the canopy and rigging.”

According to Greer, Fort Bragg was the best place for this test.

“We could either take the airplane to where the jumpers are or bring all of the jumpers here,” said Greer. “Fort Bragg has better ranges, is better equipped for rigging and packing parachutes, and has the number of paratroopers that we need for this mission.”

The test mission will not require the Army paratroopers to do anything differently than what they usually do, said Greer.

“When they go out of the aircraft, it may

feel a little bit different but for the most part, their actions are unchanged,” said Greer. “Just the flight conditions have changed.”

One airman who will enjoy this change of conditions is assistant crew chief for the C-17, Airman 1st Class Ryan Barlowe.

Barlowe, who will be among those going from Edwards to help with the tests, said the trip has special significance for him since he has never had the chance to fly on the plane he directly supports.

“I’ve wanted to fly on it since I joined the military, but this particular plane usually just flies in the local area, and they don’t take mechanics on those flights,” said Barlowe. “I’m excited to go somewhere else in the United States and show everybody what the C-17 can do.”

If these tests are successful, test officials said they will be implemented in combat, where many more people will see and experience the effects of what the C-17 can do. *(Air Force Print News)*



We’ll load up the aircraft with people and cargo and then time how long it takes to get 190 people off the airplane using only two exit doors.

Monty Greer

A Touch of Class

Larry Kangas, the original artist of a large mural now hanging in the 446th Operations Group building, touches up his painting Feb. 2, and adds a few new elements. Kangas, a retired C-141 navigator from the then 313th Military Airlift Squadron, began painting the original mural in 1976 and completed it in 1978. Kangas now lives in Portland, Ore., where he is a professional mural artist.

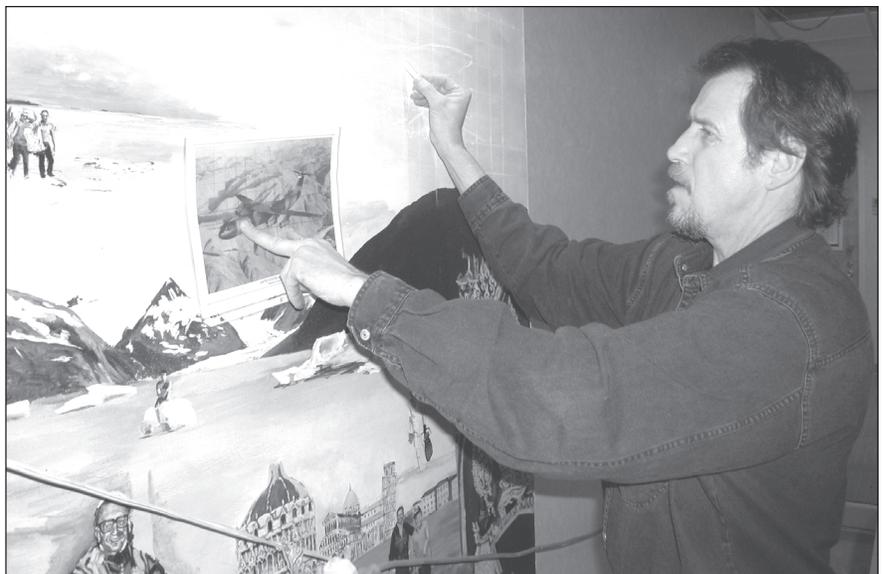


Photo by Sandra Pishner

"People ask the difference between a leader and a boss. The leader works in the open and the boss in covert. The leader leads, and the boss drives.

- Theodore Roosevelt

**March
2003**

**Did you
KNOW**

In March 1968, the first C-5A Galaxy rolled out at Lockheed's Marietta, Ga., facility.

Gas mask fit testing during the week

Reservists on base during the week, who need military gas mask fit tests to meet the wing deadline of May 1, can get tested by calling 982-2388. Trained unit administrators may also use the testing equipment setup in Bldg. 1211 at any time to test their own personnel. Senior Master Sgt. Brian Zar is coordinating testing for 446th Operations Group people. He may be reached at 982-2456.

UTA training closes medical records section

The 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron medical records section will be closed on UTA Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m., for training.

AAFES supports Operation Enduring Freedom

AAFES' support of Operation Enduring Freedom continues to expand, currently serving troops at 23 locations throughout Southwest and Central Asia, with 12 sites pending. To protect servicemembers and support their families, Military Star credit card offers two options during this time. Card holders can reduce the interest rate to 6 percent with no monthly payments while they or their families continue to use the account during the deployment. A second option for servicemembers is to freeze their accounts and receive 0 percent interest with no monthly payments. Card holders and their families then forgo use of the card during the deployment. Unit commanders or their representatives must notify the customer call center of Military Star and provide a copy of the deployment orders to ensure their troops receive the deployment benefits. Detailed instructions on this program can be found at www.aafes.com under *Military Star*.

Only one travel voucher now required to settle

Only one copy of a travel voucher and documents submitted with it is now

required, according to Master Sgt. Gary Purnell, 62nd Comptroller Squadron. The new requirement is one benefit of a new scanning/imaging system now used when processing travel settlements. As always, however, don't forget to make a copy of everything for your records.

American Airlines baggage policy changes

Effective immediately, American Airlines has changed its policy concerning free checked luggage and associated fees. For flights operating in the continental United States, the free weight allowance for passengers' checked luggage has been reduced from 70 pounds to 50 pounds per piece. Anything over 50 pounds will be assessed a fee. Luggage over 100 pounds will not be accepted for check in. A waiver for military travelers will allow for two bags, up to 70 pounds each with no fee by the airline. More bags or weight will be assessed a fee. The military waiver does not apply to DOD civilians.

DOD tests stateside Space-A for families

A one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available travel privileges for families traveling within the continental United States has been approved. The test will begin April 1 and end March 31, 2004. The test will allow family members of active-duty and retired servicemembers, including activated reservists, to travel space available with their sponsors within the continental United States and will be limited to DOD owned/controlled fixed-wing aircraft only. For more information contact the McChord Passenger Terminal at 982-7260 (*AMC News Service*)

New commanders take charge of squadrons

Lt. Col. Mary Walker, a colonel selectee, assumed command of the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Feb. 23. The

command of the 36th Aerial Port Squadron changed hands from Lt. Col. Trish Rose, who heads to the 446th Mission Support Group as deputy commander, to Maj. Dale Rees, on Feb. 22.

446th MSS, technicians earn AFRC kudos

Congratulations to the 446th Mission Support Squadron for being named Air Force Reserve Command's Outstanding Mission Support Squadron of the Year. Also earning command awards were Master Sgt. Lisa Caron and Senior Airman Stephanie Maiuri, who won AFRC's Base Personnel Superintendent and Base Personnel Specialist of the Year, respectively.

Annual tour scheduling, RPA tour approval changes

There have been changes to instructions governing the notification of reservists of when their required annual tours will be, and the approving agency for Reserve Personnel Appropriation tours over 179 days.

The scheduling of involuntary annual tours to support mission needs has been reduced from 60 days notification to 30 days notification.

Approval for any RPA tours over 179 days is now HQ USAF/RE vice representative. Approval requests must go through appropriate channels.

JA Office looking for paralegal help

There are immediate openings for two paralegals at the 446th Airlift Wing legal office. These are cross-training positions with a requirement to attend the paralegal training at Air Force Judge Advocate General's School. The Air Force JAG School is located at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and lasts six and a half weeks. There is a minimum enlisted rank requirement of senior airman, with promotion opportunity up to master sergeant. Anyone interested should contact Senior Master Sgt. Tylar Edwards or Maj. Stephen Geringer at the 446th AW legal office at 982-6587 during reserve weekends to arrange an interview. Edwards may be



contacted during the week at his civilian office by calling (206) 464-6623. Geringer may also be contacted during the week at his civilian office by calling (360) 330-5297.

Clothing Sales Store extends hours on UTAs

The clothing sales store will stay open one hour later on the Saturday of each Unit Training Assembly. They will now close at 4:30 p.m., rather than 3:30 p.m.

Employer Orientation Day postponed

Employer Orientation Day, scheduled for April 5, has been postponed because of high operations tempo. Reservists with questions about employer support should contact the 446th Airlift Wing public affairs office at 982-2060.

Singers wanted to join Voices of McChord

Voices of McChord is looking for singers. If you can carry a note, read some music, or just follow the dots, you're welcome to join. The Voices sing at many functions, such as retirements, local schools, veteran functions, corporate functions, and some of the professional sports games in the Seattle area. They meet one night a week to sharpen their golden tones. Reservists are encouraged to join. If interested contact Master Sgt. Ron Riveira at 982-2089, or send an e-mail to ronald.riveira@mcchord.af.mil

Need for more blood donations grows

Because of a smaller pool of eligible military donors and a recent decrease in stock of frozen blood, Air Force officials are asking servicemembers and their families to donate blood. Officials said Type AB blood is in high demand because it is the universal blood plasma type.

For people to donate blood, they must be in good health and usually be at least 17 years old. Most blood banks

have no upper age limit. Minimum weight requirements may vary among facilities, but generally donors must weigh at least 110 pounds. All donors must pass physical and health history examinations given before donation. (*Air Force Print News*)

Savings Bond holding period increases

The minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds increased Feb. 1, from six to 12 months, announced Department of Treasury officials. This means people who purchased EE or I bonds on or after Feb. 1, must wait one year before they may redeem those bonds. People who purchase bonds will receive a notification of this new policy with their bonds until the current preprinted bond stock reflects the change.

For more information, visit www.savingsbonds.gov.

Some airlines waive ticket-exchange fees

Some U.S. airlines are adjusting their rules so servicemembers will not have to pay penalties if they need to alter ticket reservations because of military duty.

AirTran Airways, Delta Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines now waive ticket change fees for servicemembers on military deployment orders, while ticketing changes on Southwest Airlines are currently free. Continental, Frontier and Northwest Airlines will waive change fees and issue refunds on request.

A number of other airlines will waive ticket-change penalties if servicemembers present copies of their military orders or a letter from their commanders, said General Services Administration officials. Travelers should call their airline for waiver information before going to the airport. The Air Force Aid Society may provide loans to cover unexpected expenses resulting from air carriers not

Promotions

Brigadier General

Thomas Gisler, Jr., 446th AW

Colonel

Rodney Bryan, 446th MSG

Newcomers

Major

Melanie Wood, 446th AMDS

Captain

Troy Larson, 728th AS

Technical Sergeant

Jack Richins, 446th MXS

Staff Sergeant

Thomas Bowers, 446th AW
Colin Madrid, 446th SFS
Michael Shaudis, 446th AES

Airman First Class

Michael Burke, 446th OSF
Bianca Lujan-Dart, 446th MXS

Senior Airman

David Cassie, 446th AMXS
Daniel Cummings, 446th MXS
Wanwu Huang, 446th AMXS
Quentin Nemechek, 446th AMXS
Tyler Smith, 446th AMXS

waiving fees or penalties. (*Air Force Print News*)

Pets traveling to UK still licensed into quarantine

The United Kingdom extended the Pet Travel Scheme in December 2002 to include the United States, which means cats and dogs that comply with the rules should be able to enter without spending six months in quarantine.

However, during these initial months when official certification is not available or there are no approved routes and carriers, cats and dogs must first be licensed into quarantine and then owners can apply for early release.

Although cats and dogs are still quarantined, it could be for as little as five days if all procedures are followed. The process includes micro-chipping first, followed by a

Retirements

First Lieutenant

Patricia Karlik, 446th ASTS

Senior Master Sergeant

Monika de Haas, 446th ALFC
Robert Faust, 446th AMXS
Kenneth Foreman, 446th MXS
Meridith Jose, 446th MXS
Gary Waymire, 86th APS

Master Sergeant

Terry Gazaway, 446th AMXS
Edwin Hesner, 446th AMXS
James Howard, 36th APS
Dwight Larson, 446th MXS

Technical Sergeant

Monica Boesen, 36th APS
Randy Holloman, 446th MXS
Dale Martens Jr., 446th AMXS
Shane Oglesby, 446th MXS
Willie Scales Jr., 446th AMXS

Correction

Information provided to the *Associate Press* in February's Salutes column incorrectly identified Craig Huffman was as a major. Huffman is a master sergeant. The *Associate Press* regrets the error.

rabies shot and a blood test 30 days later. Six months after a blood test with successful results, the animal can leave the United States and enter the United Kingdom without spending six months in quarantine. (*Air Force Print News*)

Associate Press best in Air Force Reserve

The 446th Airlift Wing has the best unit newspaper in Air Force Reserve Command in the 2002 AFRC Media Contest.

The contest concluded Jan. 31 with the judges awarding the most points to the *Associate Press*. The 446th Airlift Wing's newspaper will represent AFRC in the newsletter format publication category at the Air Force Media Contest March 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas.

What do you really need for a better Air Force life?

Assessment includes Reserve

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez
◆ Air Force Print News

A survey designed to gauge the Air Force's success in building communities is set for distribution in early April.

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey will be sent out service-wide and include for the first time more than 30,000 reservists and their families.

"We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and their lives in the Air Force better," said Maj. Jim Whitworth, the Air Force's director of family advocacy research and project officer for the survey.

"The assessment goes out to active-duty members, reservists and to their spouses. Many of our reservists and families reside several hundred miles from their Air Force Reserve Command unit, so it is imperative we understand and address the issues they face."

According to Linda Rieth, 446th Airlift Wing Family Support Center, since the assessment will be done randomly, it's unknown if anyone from the 446th AW will participate.

"There is no way of knowing how many, or who, will be surveyed here.

If reservists or their families have input, but are not part of the assessment, they should send any comments regarding family support, morale, welfare and recreation to my office either by phone (253-982-5330) or by letter (446th MSS/DPF, 1205 12th St. NE, Ste 102W, McChord AFB, WA 98438)," said Rieth.

Variations of the assessment have been conducted once every 24 to 30 months since 1993. This year, the total number of people who will be asked to take the assessment is about 1,800 people at each of 85 Air Force installations, and several hundred from each Reserve installation. Those taking the survey will be randomly chosen, and the survey is Web-based and completely anonymous. The assessment will be administered over a six-week period and 24-hour technical support will be available.

Assessment questions cover basic needs by asking about "key areas necessary for building strong communities," Whitworth said.

One section of the assessment will ask questions specifically for Air Force reservists and spouses. The questions will cover topics such as civilian employers, spouse and member's feelings about the Reserve,

where they live and financial issues.

Assessment results, Whitworth said, will not fall on deaf ears. In fact, bases have used past results to make changes in the services they provide on base, and even in the services and options available to those off base.

Military members will be notified by e-mail, while spouses will be notified by postal mail. Airmen can complete the assessment on a Web site, and spouses have the option of completing it on paper. The effectiveness of the assessment depends on participants' willingness to accurately complete it, Whitworth said. It's designed to take less than 20 minutes.

"Our goal is to make improvements in building stronger communities without guessing, so we need to know people's thoughts and needs," Whitworth said. "If people don't tell us what they need or identify areas where we can improve or what the problems are, it will be much harder to reach our goal.

"We urge all active-duty, Reserve and family members who receive these assessments to take the time to complete the assessment and to help us strengthen our Air Force communities. This assessment is their chance to do than." (AFRC News Service)

446th Associate Press



The 446th Associate Press is printed for family members like Marine Pfc Gary Washington, son of Senior Master Sgt. Liz Milligan, 446th Operations Support Flight.

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