

Vol. 22, No. 1

January 2007

# FRONT RANGE FLYER



302nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

*Port Dawgs aid humanitarian effort*

*See page 4*

**Front Range Flyer**  
Vol. 22, No. 1 January 2007



On the cover



**Port Dawgs aid humanitarian effort**

Airman Gary Starita, 39th Aerial Port Squadron air transportation apprentice, moves a pallet of items headed for Afghanistan. See page 6 for the full story (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)

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**302nd AW Web sites**

**Internal** - <https://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/302aw/welcome.htm>  
**External** - <http://www.302aw.afrc.af.mil>



Colonel McMahon (right) looks on as Ellen Cesarone, Regional Director for Congressman Joel Hefley, makes a presentation to Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander, during the wing demobilization celebration Dec. 2. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)

# 2006 – a year of changes

**By Col. Andrew McMahon**  
*302nd AW vice commander*

What a difference one year can make. Last year at this time, we were less than halfway through the 302nd Operations Group and 302nd Maintenance Group mobilization and deployment to the Middle East. By the end of the year almost all of our airmen had returned. In 2006 we heralded the arrival of a new wing commander, Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., and a new maintenance group commander, Col. Jane Kitchen. Also in 2006, we had a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new 39th Aerial Port Squadron/302nd Airlift Control Flight building. This last year was certainly one of change for our wing.

I'm sure that each one of you has your own special memories of 2006 in the 302nd AW – the long awaited return from an overseas deployment, a new assignment, or maybe even a much deserved promotion! I have a lot of great memories from 2006, but most involve the sense of

pride that I get when working with such a fine group of American patriots. I hope a lot of you feel the same way I do.

As we start a new year, it's only natural to look ahead and try to picture what our wing will look like at the end of 2007. One thing is certain – change will continue. More old friends will retire, but new, energized airmen will join our ranks. Let's do all we can to make our new members feel welcome. Show them that the 302nd is an extended family and that we truly care for each other.

Let's also work together and show Air Force Reserve Command and Air Mobility Command what we already know – that the 302nd AW is the number one airlift wing in the United States Air Force. Next year at this time, having successfully completed our December 2007 Operational Readiness Inspection, I'm looking forward to reporting that the 302nd has scored an "Outstanding."

2007 promises to be a great year!

<b>Wing Commander</b> Col. James J. Muscatell Jr.	<b>Public Affairs Staff</b> Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Gildner Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius	<b>Office Manager</b> Savali S. Ulutu
<b>Public Affairs Officer</b> 1st Lt. Jody Ritchie	<b>Information Manager</b> Tech. Sgt. John Kelleher	<b>Public Affairs Intern</b> Ian Bebow
<b>NCOIC/Editor</b> Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor		<b>Magazine Production</b> Alice Scott

# Looking back at 2006

It was another busy year for the 302nd Airlift Wing. Here's a look at a few of the activities the wing was involved in.

## January

- Colonel Jeffrey Ansted took the reins as the 310th Space Group commander and the 310th added its 10th unit, the Reserve National Security Space Institute.

- Lieutenant Col. James Gregory became commander of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron.

## February

- Colonel Susan Rhodes assumed command of the RNSSI.

## March

- Colonel James J. Muscatell Jr. accepted command of the 302nd AW.

## April

- Colonel Jane Kitchen assumed command of the 302nd Maintenance Group.

## May

- The 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron made international news when several members helped transport injured NBC News correspondent Kimberly Dozier while performing annual tour in Germany.

- Maintenance bowlers reclaimed the right to boast, winning the annual fund-raiser for the fourth time in five years. The wrench turners also had the third-place team.



## June

- Reservists' employers were treated to an orientation flight on a C-130, a tour of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center and lunch.

## July

- The long-awaited construction on the new Consolidated 39th Aerial Port Squadron/302nd Airlift Control Flight was completed, and the two units received their new home.

- Lieutenant Col. Scott Sauter became commander of the 70th Flying Training Squadron.

## August

- Families came together to celebrate the annual 302nd AW Family Day.

- The 302nd MXG Hercs came from behind in the championship game to capture the Peterson Air Force Base Recreation Silver League softball championship.

## September

- The wing's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission completed another round of battling blaze – this time fighting fires in the Pacific Northwest.

## October

- The 302nd brought to a close 14 months of



deployments to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. Central Command operations.

- Several wing members participated in the Avondale Veterans Day Parade.

## November

- Wing members continued to represent the unit at Veterans Day parades – this time in Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

## December

- The 302nd celebrated its demobilization, honoring all wing members for their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

- Twelve Colorado Springs civic leaders were inducted into the 302nd AW's very first honorary commanders group.



Clockwise from top of page, 302nd Airlift Wing members and their families enjoy a demobilization celebration. The 302nd Maintenance Group Hercs won a base softball championship. Tech. Sgt. Jane L. Link, 731st Airlift Squadron flight engineer apprentice, was just one of many wing members who deployed to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. Central Command Operations. (U.S. Air Force photos)

# Wing inducts honorary commanders

**By Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton**  
*Front Range Flyer*

Twelve honorary commanders were welcomed into the 302nd Airlift Wing during a special ceremony held at Bldg. 210, Bay 1, on Dec. 2.

The ceremony, held in conjunction with the wing's demobilization celebration to recognize wing members who've supported U. S. Central Command operations, was part of a new initiative to help introduce community leadership to reservists' way of life. It helped familiarize them with some of the wing's more than 1,300 military members.

"This type of program is very common in the active-duty world," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Kirby Schueler, 302nd AW command chief master sergeant. "It's a way to help establish more of a constant rapport between the wing and a broader base of civilian leadership within our community. It's a viable program at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, N.M. where I work as a civilian, and our honorary commanders will gain a wealth of new experiences being involved with the program on a different level than we can pull from periodic civic leader tours. I think that is the key for any program like this."

Donna Vessey, 302nd AW honorary command chief, is a character actress and talent scout with local and regional television commercial experience. She is the president

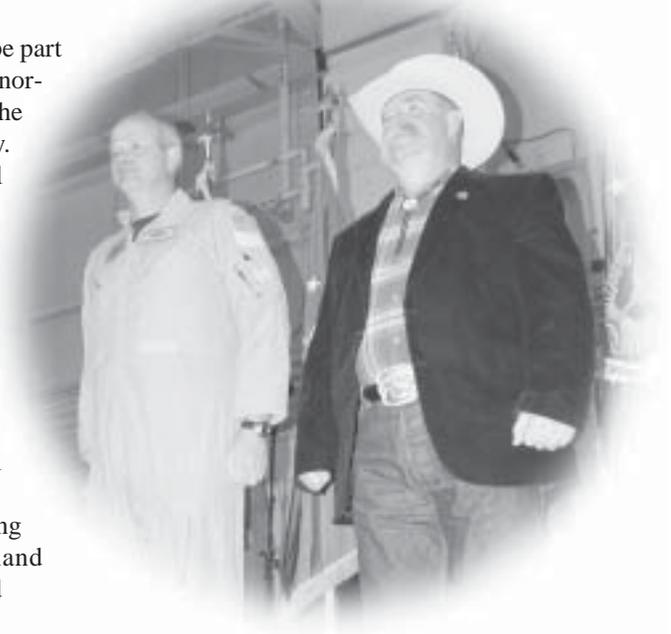
and chief operating officer of Donna Vessey Events which specializes in providing entertainment for corporate and private events. She's also an honorary commander for the 21st Space Wing.

"I feel much honored to be part of the first group of the honorary commander's group at the 302nd AW," said Ms. Vessey. "I know how important local support is for military personnel stationed here, and I'm happy to be part of it. I think the honorary commander's program is a great way to build local relationships between the military and local businesses. There's a great deal to be learned from both."

"I look forward to involving Ms. Vessey in the command chief's program," added Chief Schueler.

Another honorary commander is Rai Henniger, Colorado Springs Sky Sox Baseball Club senior vice-president of marketing and promotions. He will serve as honorary commander for the 39th Aerial Port Squadron as a counterpart to Lt. Col. James Gregory, 39th APS commander. The Sky Sox are a Triple-A minor league affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

"It's an honor to be selected to work with the 39th APS," said Mr. Henniger. "The tour of the new facility was fasci-



Lt. Col Bob Chapman, 731st Airlift Squadron commander, receives Ronnie Cook as the 731st's honorary commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton)

nating. For over a decade I've worked closely with the Air Force Reserve's recruiting mission, and this is a tremendous opportunity to build communication between our community and the men and women who serve

**Honorary CCs continued on page 8**

# 39th Aerial Port 'Dawgs' aid humanitarian effort

**By Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor**  
*Front Range Flyer*

Calling someone a "dawg" is not always a good thing. However, the members of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron don't seem to mind. In their eyes, it is a sign of respect – a symbol of the diligent, hard-working efforts they put forth day in and day out.

Those efforts shone bright in 2005 when 48 members of the "Port Dawgs" established cargo and personnel transportation records in Iraq. The unit spent the better part of a year rotating

between Iraq, Germany and Maryland in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

It was evident again on Dec. 3 when 14 members of the unit worked into the darkness to prepare and load cargo on a C-17 bound for Afghanistan. While Colorado Springs was braving record low temperatures (single digits in the morning and low teens in the late afternoon), the Port Dawgs were handling hundreds of donated items which valued \$58,424, according to Senior Master Sgt. Dean Firestien, 39th APS superinten-

dent of special handling.

Sergeant Firestien applauded the efforts of the 14 individuals who worked after hours to get the aircraft loaded on time.

"The aerial porters take a lot of pride in their work," he said. "This was just another case of our people making the sacrifices required to get the job done."

"Thanks to the rest of the 39th for building up this equipment," he added, "and, of course, to the active-duty 21st Logistics Readiness Squadron members who allowed us to use their GATES computers, their equip-

ment and provided assistance when we asked."

"We learned on Dec. 8 these donations will arrive in Afghanistan in time for Christmas," said Senior Master Sgt. Ron Sutton, 39th APS superintendent of terminal services.

As the C-17 departed Peterson Air Force Base on its humanitarian mission, it took with it 16,585 pounds of cargo prepped and loaded by the Port Dawgs.

Somewhere among those pallets will be smiles for the people of Afghanistan.

# First meeting of Family HEARTS in January

**By Nancy Muscatell**  
*Family HEARTS*  
*Board of Trustees*

Have you heard? There is a new program being implemented through the 302nd Airlift Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center. This program will provide support for members of the 302nd AW and their families through programs and activities.

Before I tell you about it, let me introduce myself. I'm Nancy Muscatell, wife of Col. Jim Muscatell, 302nd AW commander.

Over the past few years, I have noticed that life as a family member of a reservist has definitely changed. It is no longer just one weekend a month and two weeks a year. Many of us have to deal with long periods of separation and disruption of our lives. Due to this, it is critical for you, our families and our citizen Airmen, to get the support we need.

Therefore, to provide this support, the readiness center is implementing a program called "Family HEARTS." This program will ultimately benefit the 302nd AW members and their

families through information, communication and resources for staying connected to each other, the wing and the base.

There are similar programs at a few other Reserve wings and the results have been phenomenal!

Family HEARTS will be made up solely by volunteers, with guidance coming from the readiness center. We are asking spouses and other family members, as well as past and present members of the 302nd,

to serve as volunteers for this new program.

Family HEARTS has scheduled an informational meeting

to take place on Jan. 6 at 3:30 p.m. in the 302nd

AW conference room located in Bldg. 893.

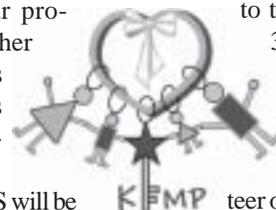
If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or for more information,

contact the readiness center at (719) 556-8184 or 1-800-446-

9624 or e-mail 302MSG.DPMFR

@peterson.af.mil, nancypr356

@msn.com or marie.law@peterson.af.mil.



## Some reservists eligible for Academy LEAD program

Some 302nd Airlift Wing reservists may be eligible for the United States Air Force Academy Leaders Encouraging Airman Development program. The LEAD program delegates authority to unit commanders to nominate highly qualified Airmen to attend the Air Force Academy or the Prep School.

To be eligible, Airmen must be a U.S. citizen or be able to obtain citizenship before entry into the Academy. They must be unmarried with no dependents and be at least 17, but not older than 22 (for prep school) or 23 (for direct entry) by July of the entry year.

Airman must also be of high moral character and meet specific leadership, academic, physical, and medical standards for a commission in the USAF AF Form 1786. To compete for an appointment, you must complete an AF IMT 1786, Application for

Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy Under Quota Allotted to Enlisted Members of the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force, and have your squadron commander complete a statement on your character, ability, and motivation to become an Air Force officer. This form requires your personal information, commander's endorsement, and military personnel flight coordination. The completed form must reach USAFA by Jan. 31.

In addition to the AF Form 1786 to USAFA, it is recommended you take the SAT/ACT to ensure highest scores. Between February and April complete the candidate packages (turn in all necessary forms sent by USAFA, complete Candidate Fitness Assessment, Liaison Officer interview, medical, etc.). This must be done no later than March 1 for direct entry and no later than

April 15 for the prep school.

There are 85 appointments for direct entry to USAFA and 50 appointments to the preparatory school. Examination results and previous performance determine selections.

Airmen do not have to obtain a Congressional nomination.

Your point of contact at Air Force Reserve Command is the Force Management Branch at DSN 327-1270 or commercial (478) 327-1270. The 302nd POC is Chief Master Sgt. David Malenky at 556-7249.

Contact the USAFA Office of Admissions at DSN 333-2520 or commercial (719) 333-2520 for additional details or questions regarding application procedures. You may also access the USAFA website at [www.academyadmissions.com](http://www.academyadmissions.com). (Courtesy of U.S. Air Force Academy)

## First sergeant vacancies available

The 302nd Airlift Wing has first sergeant vacancies. If you are interested, submit a package to Master Sgt. Rick Kind, 302nd AW First Sergeant Council president, or Command Chief Master Sgt. Kirby Schueler, 302nd AW command chief, no later than 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

The package should contain a letter of interest from the mem-

ber, letter of recommendation from the member's commander, letter certifying physical training scores from the member's commander, current records review from 302nd Military Personnel Flight Customer Service, and a resume with an emphasis on military achievements.

Call 556-0222/8132 for more information.

### 302nd AW Annual Enlisted Awards Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 10  
 Antlers Hilton, 4 South Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs  
 Semi-formal or mess dress, formal or semi-formal for guests  
 Social, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m.  
 Senior Airman and below - \$20;  
 staff and technical sergeant - \$25;  
 master sergeant and above - \$30  
 See a first sergeant for tickets





**TRICARE information now housed under one roof**

The TRICARE website has been reorganized to bring all functions in one location. It comprises five main areas:

- My Health (TRICARE Online) – personal health information and online appointment scheduling for TRICARE Prime enrollees;
- My Benefit: TRICARE benefit information;
- MHS Staff: Resources for

Military Health System staff members;

- TRICARE Providers: Information for TRICARE network providers; and
- Pressroom: The latest news about TRICARE and the military health system.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123030415>.

**Phishing attack targets Air Force Portal**

The Air Force Network Operations Center has received notification that a possible phishing attack is underway concerning the Air Force Portal.

Air Force Portal users are receiving the following e-mail:

Attention AF Portal Users (27 Nov 06). The Department of De-

fense has confirmed that user names and personal data Air Force-wide may have been compromised. The issue is currently under investigation.

Delete any kind of e-mail you receive of this sort.

**Students can apply for DECA scholarships at commissaries**

The Scholarships for Military Children Program applications, sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency, are now available for 2007.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at commissaries or through [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org) or [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu).

Applications must be turned in at a commissary by close of business Feb. 21. The program

is open to unmarried children under age 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel.

Applicants must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university fulltime in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123030457>.

**Popular candy illegal for Airmen**

“Chronic Candy,” a new candy popular with the 21 and older crowd, contains hemp oil

*News to Use continued on page 7*

*Reservists could be eligible for Blue Star Benefit Program*

Inspired by the World War II tradition of displaying a blue star in the window for each family member in service of their country, the Blue Star Benefit Program rebates all interest on purchases and fees charged during deployment in a military campaign.

Eligible cardmembers include Chase Military cardmembers (primary, joint, and authorized users) serving on active duty in a military campaign and designated to receive a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government.

Eligible cardmembers must contact Chase Bank in the form of a letter requesting a rebate of interest payment. A sample letter can be downloaded at [https://www.r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs\\_Ltd/Documents/BlueStarBenefitLetterTemplate.doc](https://www.r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/Documents/BlueStarBenefitLetterTemplate.doc). Along

with the letter, the cardmember must provide an official military document indicating that the cardmember is entitled to receive a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government. Documentation should be sent to: Cardmember Service, P.O. Box 8650, Wilmington, Del. 19899-8650.

Upon redemption, eligible cardmembers will receive a refund of all finance charges incurred on their accounts during their time in a military campaign. The amount will be refunded as a credit on their accounts retroactively.

The cardmember must be a cardmember in good standing at the commencement of the military campaign and remain in good standing throughout the campaign. Cardmember’s account must remain open

during the time the rebate is requested and received. Finance charge rebates are limited to interest and fees on purchases on the account and do not include finance charges or fees on balance transfers or cash advances made during the cardmember’s participation in the military campaign. Waiver of finance charges is effective for the duration a cardmember is deployed in a military campaign, or for a period of one year, whichever is shorter.

The program is effective from March 1, 1999 to present. Military campaigns before the effective date (such as Desert Storm) are not covered by the Blue Star Benefits. Claims must be submitted within one year of cardmember’s military campaign end date. (Courtesy of AFClubs.net)

*Newcomers*

**39th Aerial Port Squadron**

- Senior Airman James E. Alexander
- Staff Sgt. Steven M. Howell
- Airman 1st Class Jeremy M. Mustian
- 1st Lt. Erin Reilly

**302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron**

- Capt. Kim Ator
- Senior Airman Mario Moreno
- Senior Airman Jennifer N. Ord
- Staff Sgt. Rose M. Smith

**302nd Maintenance Squadron**

- Senior Airman Laura D. Roybal
- 302nd Security Forces Squadron**
- Staff Sgt. Daniel R. Calhoun
- Airman 1st Class David J. Romero

**310th Security Forces Squadron**

- Senior Airman Richard J. Porter
- Staff Sgt. Jonathan C. Teisher

**310th Space Group**

- Senior Airman Steven D. Sprague

**731st Airlift Squadron**

- Staff Sgt. Barry S. Burkitt
- Senior Airman Anthony Zeppetella
- 7th Space Operations Squadron**
- Maj. Laurel A. Skuntz

**14th Test Squadron**

- Maj. Joel D. McCray
- Maj. Stephen D. White

**National Security Space Institute**

- Maj. Karen A. Meacham

## Sharp Troop of the Month

**Name:** Audrey Adams

**Rank:** Airman 1st Class

**Section:** 39th Aerial Port Squadron, Terminal Services, A Flight

**Job:** Air Transportation Journeyman

**Date assigned:** January 2006

**Hometown:** Alamosa, Colo.

**Hobbies:** Member of the Adams State College track and field team. Playing with her daughter, Aspen. Hanging out with ASC Grizzly Hoodlums.

**Favorite thing about your job:** "Learning to drive our MHE (mechanized handling equipment) and how receptive our squadron members and willing to share their knowledge and experience."

*Note – Any member of the 302nd Airlift Wing or 310th Space Group may nominate an individual for Sharp Troop of the Month. Contact the editor of the Front Range Flyer at 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil, or call (719) 556-4117, or toll free (800) 446-9624.*



## Retirees

Col. Michael Sumida, 595th Space Group

Chief Master Sgt. Charles P. Sturgis, 310th Space Group

Master Sgt. Sharon S. Adams, 302nd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Tondeleria T. Tull, 302nd Airlift Wing

### News to Use continued from page 6

and is illegal for Air Force members to ingest. Another such product is called "Dave."

For restrictions, read Air Force Instruction 44-121.

### AFOSI investigates possible new ID theft

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is looking at possible identity theft.

On Nov. 27, an Air Force member provided AFOSI with a letter she received claiming she had won a portion of the "Euromillones Sweepstakes Lottery International Program" valued at \$815,810 (Euro). This was identified as her portion of a \$10,468,770 (Euro) total drawing with 17 international winners.

The mailing appeared "official" and instructed her to contact her "claim agent" for processing and remittance of her prize money to a bank account of her choice. An enclosed "Payment Processing Form" was provided and had entries to fill out. These entries included bank information (name, address, account number, routing number) and recipient's next of kin.

Anyone who feels they have been a potential victim of identity theft can contact AFOSI for more information.

Direct questions regarding information in this report to AFOSI Detachment 332, at DSN 297-4692 or e-mail david.rose@ogn.af.mil.

## UTA Schedule

Next UTA: Jan. 6-7

Feb. 10-11

March 3-4

April 14-15

### Saturday

6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Breakfast/Brunch	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Newcomers Orientation	
	Bldg. 895, Conference Rm.	556-8185
7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	MPF Hours (Closed 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)	
	Bldg. 895, First Floor	556-8185
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Military Clothing Sales	
	Bldg. 1466	556-3227
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch & A Lift	
	Aragon Colorado Room	556-7428
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Company Grade Officer's Council	
	Silver Spruce Golf Course	556-6234/6190
12 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Customer Service Hours	
	Bldg. 895, Room 121	556-8185
12:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	CDC/PME Testing	
	Bldg. 625	556-7573/7250/7950
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Chaplain Available	
	Bldg. 893, Room 143	556-7428
4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Dinner	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180
9 p.m. – 11 p.m.	Late Night Carry-out	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180

### Sunday

6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Breakfast/Brunch	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Chiefs' Group Meeting	
	Silver Spruce Golf Course	556-8132
7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	MPF Hours	
	Bldg. 895, Room 219A	556-8185
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Physical Exams	
	Clinic	556-1132
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	First Sergeant Council Meeting	
	Silver Spruce Golf Course	556-8307
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Homosexual Policy Training	
	Bldg. 890, 2nd Fl. Briefing Rm.	556-8140
10:30 am - 11:30 a.m.	Human Resources Development Council	
	Bldg. 216, Conference Rm.	556-4117
12 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Junior Enlisted Advisory Council	
	Bldg. 350	556-7550
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Dinner	
	Aragon Dining Facility	556-4180

✓ Can't make the UTA but you made lodging reservations? Contact Master Sgt. Terry Brassard at (719) 556-4001 or 1-800-446-9624 to cancel.

✓ Want an event on next month's schedule? Contact the 302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at (719) 556-4117 or e-mail 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil.



# Wing celebrates holiday, end of demobilization

By Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius  
*Front Range Flyer*

The 302nd Airlift Wing holiday party and demobilization celebration marked the De-

ember unit training assembly, and drew to a close more than a year of extensive deployments to Southwest Asia.

“I like that the emphasis was on everyone in the unit, not just those who de-

ployed,” said Lt. Col. Ron Wilt the 302nd Operations Group deputy commander.

The colonel said it’s important to recognize that it takes the support of everyone to achieve mission success.

A heavy snowfall didn’t stop reservists, their families, and friends from filling Bay 1 of Bldg. 210 and partaking in this year’s festivities.

Holiday tunes by the U.S. Air Force Academy Band Wild Blue Country echoed through the hanger as friends and families gathered to eat, drink, and make merry.

Members of the Southeast Family Center and Armed Services YMCA, and Wells Fargo Bank set up and served a plentiful lunch with a healthy side of holiday cheer.

Santa Claus even made a special appearance, handing out candy canes to children and taking last-minute Christmas list wishes.

Major Steve Thompson, 731st Airlift Squadron pilot, said it was an excellent idea, and it’s really great to see everyone who deployed – home safe again.

“This mobilization was a team effort from every member of the wing,” said Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd AW commander, “both those who deployed and those who remained back here. And it included countless sacrifices made by our family members and our friends.”



Little Isabella Cross isn’t quite sure what to make of the big guy (aka Ken Haskin, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron administrative assistant) with the fluffy beard as she rests in the arms of her father, Staff Sgt. Eric Cross, 731st Airlift Squadron loadmaster, during the demobilization celebration. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)

## Honorary CCs *continued from page 4*

our nation at the 302nd AW.”

Other honorary commander positions filled during the ceremony include: Fred Fletemeyer, Chief Executive Officer, Fred Fletemeyer Company, 302nd AW commander; Jim Weidman, Focus on the Family, 302nd AW vice commander; Doug Corley, Power Equipment Company, 302nd Maintenance Group; Dr. Nicholas Sol, The Walking Clinic, 302nd Operations Group deputy commander; William Sasz, Sherman and Howard LLC,

302nd Airlift Control Flight; retired Brig. Gen. Robert Stein, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, 302nd Operations Support Flight; Ronnie Cook, Flying W Ranch, 731st Airlift Squadron; Ed McPherson, Transit Mix Concrete Company, 302nd Maintenance Squadron; Melodie Owens, Antler’s Hilton Hotel, 302nd Services Flight; and Joan Sell, Software Engineering Solutions, 302nd Mission Support Flight.

“I think the honorary commander’s program is the most efficient and excellent way to introduce the 302nd AW to

key members of the Colorado Springs community,” said Col. Andrew T. McMahon, 302nd AW vice commander. “It’s a

great benefit to both.”

More honorary commanders are expected to be inducted in early 2007.

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
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