

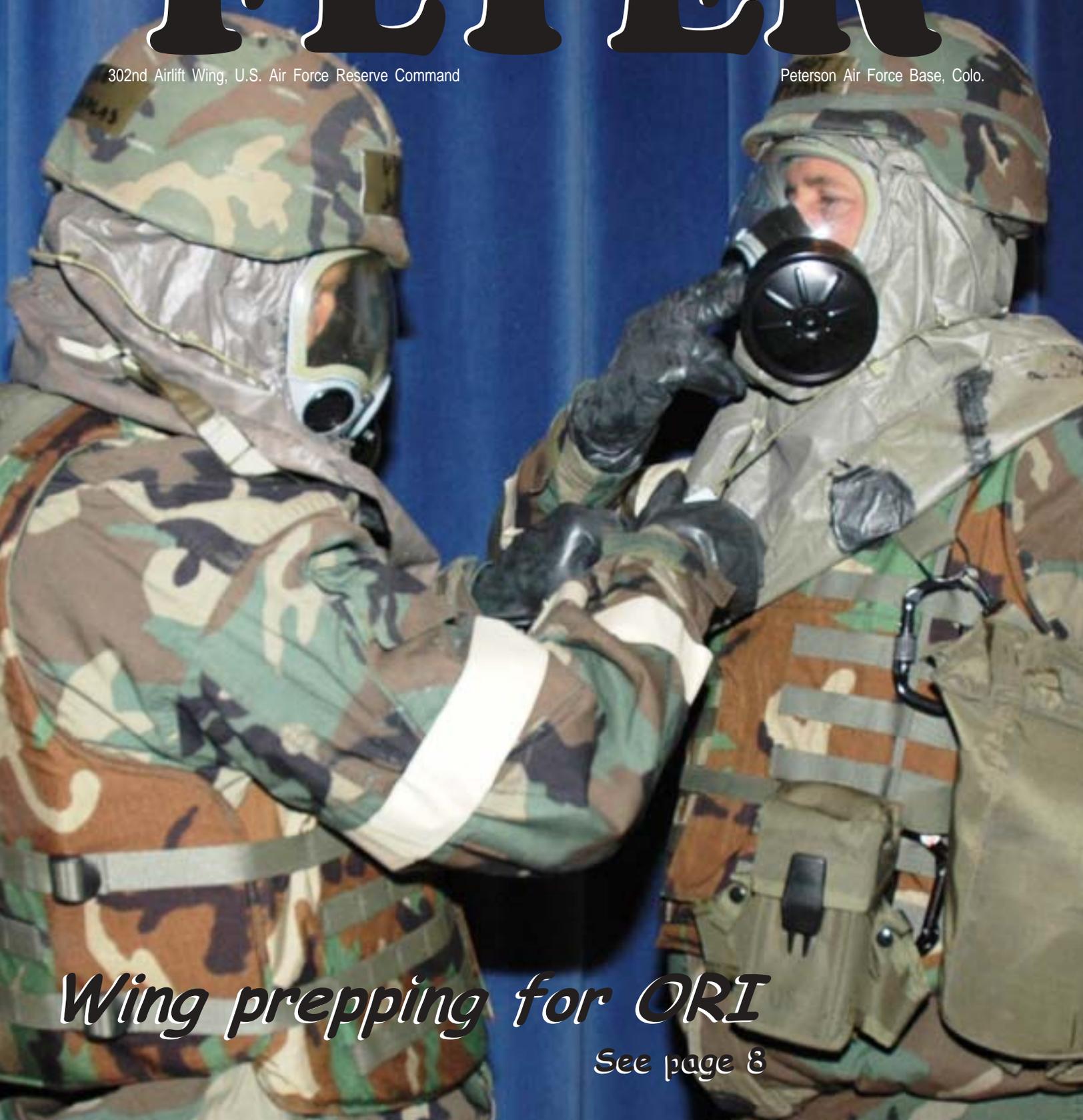
Vol. 22, No. 3

March 2007

FRONT RANGE FLYER

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

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



Wing prepping for ORI

See page 8

Front Range Flyer
Vol. 22, No. 3 March 2007



On the cover



Wing prepping for ORI

Technical Sgt. Nicholas Jones, 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in charge of readiness, assists Tech. Sgt. Michael Mabbitt, 302nd CES readiness journeyman, with his hood. See page 8 for deployment preparation information. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)

Inside this issue ...

310th SG News	6
Deployment News	7, 9
Annual Awards	12

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302nd AW Web sites

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

Up, up, and away!

By **Col. Jane L. Kitchen**
302nd MXG commander

The lights dim, the engine roars, and you snuggle down into your field jacket for a 5-hour flight to somewhere in the U.S. At least that is where you are really going but the scenario is that you are flying to a foreign country to set up a base to support our nation.

You can't snack on anything on the aircraft like you normally do because the Operational Readiness Inspection ground rules say that if you do the inspectors will "take you out" for 24 hours and then your unit will be short.

Ah yes, surviving the ORI will be anything but fun. It will be challenging, it will be a game of cat and mouse with the inspectors, and it will be rewarding when it is done, but it will not be "fun."

The aircraft lands and some people you don't know come on board and start giving you directions – you follow them into a large room where they give you a briefing about the simulated country you have landed in. You fill out forms, get on a bus and end up at a parking lot full of

bags – yours are there somewhere.

You have been up for hours by now and you still have to find your room and head on back to your work center because the building must be hardened and the work area has to be set up. Finally, you split into shifts and have to find the dining facility – remember no food in your room.

Every five years the Air Force puts the wing through an ORI. You may be asking why when we have just returned from a successful deployment to the desert. There are many reasons, but the best one I can come up with is that in doing an ORI we as a wing must work very closely together to do things we just don't normally do.

The war we just fought may not be the war we need to survive in the future. It doesn't matter that we just returned from the desert – what we learn doing an ORI could save our lives and the lives of those we supervise in the future.

We can each make a difference, no matter how short the time we are with the unit. Study the ground rules; personally prepare both physically and mentally.

You can learn and you can make a difference.



Col. Jane L. Kitchen

'Thank you for your service' applies to all in uniform

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

My Public Affairs compadre – Tech. Sgt. Dave Morton – was chauffeuring me around during lunch last unit training assembly so I could run an important errand. We decided to hit the drive-through at one of the east side's finer dining establishments before heading back to base. The line of cars was long, so we made a quick dash inside to get our meals to go.

While I was waiting on my scrumptious burger and fries I felt a very firm grasp on my arm. I was slightly surprised, although very relieved, to find

a petite, elderly woman latching onto my forearm. I smiled, hoping I hadn't done something to upset her (thinking back to my youth when I possessed a knack for irritating my elders).

That's when she said, "Thank you for your service." I politely responded to her statement, then headed back to the car thinking I haven't done anything special. In the 20-plus years I've served I've never deployed.

That evening, it dawned on me. She wasn't thanking me personally, but through me was thanking everyone who wears a uniform in defense of this country. So, on her behalf, let me "thank you for your service."

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Manage your career progression

By Chief Master Sgt. Joe Vigil
302nd Maintenance Group

Have you ever been passed over or not been selected for a position you thought you were qualified for? Did you follow up with the supervisor or hiring official to ask why you were not selected?

In my experience as a hiring supervisor I have had to pass over individuals who I thought would have been great for the position. Unfortunately for both of us, they were not as prepared as they thought. In my explanation as to why they were not selected, I have had to inform candidates that a course in their Professional Military Education had not been completed, or started, or even requested enrollment for that matter. It should be that your supervisor has taken the time to sit down with you, and explained what is necessary for promotions and career progression. However, it should always be the individual's responsibility to chart out their own career goals and develop a plan.

Yes, that's true. When you volunteered and signed up, you sort of had an idea of what you wanted to have happen the first six months to a year. This is a short term goal. You also have ideas for the future since you are committed to either four or six years. This is your long range goal.

Goals? These are your career expectations (usually involves gaining more stripes), but how will you measure your success or how will you know your shortcomings? In other words, how do you know you are on track?

One way to be – and stay – on track is to create a timeline for your career measured with milestones you have plotted for

short and long range. This is how you can measure whether or not you will hit your desired goals as scheduled.

When a promotion or opportunity presents itself, this is not the time to scramble to meet the requirements. The bottom line is that you are not prepared, and it's usually too late. Rather, at the earliest opportunity, you should be enrolling in your PME. It could very well be you are not yet eligible for promotion, but if completed ahead of time, now you are ready and ahead of the game. This is managing your career. Let me share a true story. (E v e n though this



individual has long retired and moved away, I'll call him John Doe).

Many years back in the twilight of his career, Tech. Sgt. John Doe was hoping for a promotion. After all, one more stripe would really enhance that retirement pay. Sergeant Doe was well received and well liked. I liked him myself.

Knowing that one more stripe would really help at retirement, almost every coworker came to me in an effort to convince me that I should promote Sergeant Doe. Like I said, he was well liked, and this, I thought, was quite admirable to have so many

he worked with and mentored come forth without his knowledge on his behalf.

I knew the situation and had actually expressed this thought more than once to this individual with negative results. But what the heck, it could be a win-win situation if I could convince him. I would give it another try. I called Sergeant Doe into the office and once again tried to emphasize the importance to complete one more PME. I was not surprised to receive an up/down head nod, although I knew very well that this was a negative reply. Sergeant Doe stated his position (I'd heard it before).

Once again, digging in his heels here came the argument that he'd already completed a similar course years back when it was called something else.

But like so many of us with years under our belt, we have witnessed and lived through changes in PME. Sergeant Doe's argument just did not hold its weight. In fact, I find that mind-set archaic even to argue the point. A requirement is a requirement and must be adhered to; there are no short cuts or loop holes. As I mentioned, Sergeant Doe had a weak argument since there is no record on file, or hard copy certificate. In the end, Sergeant Doe did not complete the required PME even though he was in the slot, had ample time to complete it, and could have been promoted and wear the stripe before retiring.

Another lesson to learn would be to secure all your certificates. You may need them at a later time

as proof, especially in times like this.

How frustrating it is for a supervisor who wants to reward and promote an individual who actually earned and deserves the promotion but cannot for lack of PME. (It happens a lot.)

One puzzling question on the career of Sergeant Doe who retired with 33 plus years: you mean to tell me there was not enough time to map out PME courses? If you're looking for an answer, so am I. I am still bewildered by that nonchalant attitude. He would have made an excellent master sergeant and enhance his retirement benefits.

Advice from the chief – this is your career. Do not allow anyone else to manage it for you. Others including your supervisors, have one career to manage and those careers are theirs – not yours! Yes, I do expect supervisors to assist you in learning the resources available to help you plan and manage your career. That is what a good supervisor/mentor does.

As you are grooming to becoming a supervisor yourself someday, I would highly encourage each of you to experience at least one course in residence. This will only polish your skills as you experience the hands-on group dynamics in this type setting. As a matter of fact, you will share in camaraderie and establish bonds that will carry throughout your career. My greatest PME learning experience to date was when I attended the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Don't come to me in the twilight of your career without preparation wanting to be promoted. It's not going to happen.

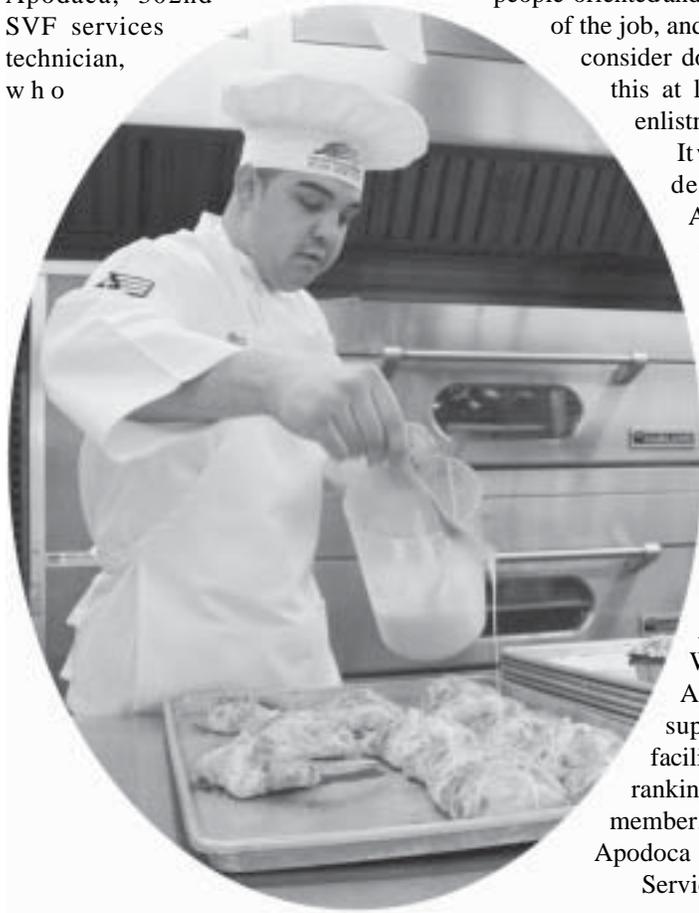
Remember: When you reward mediocrity, you gain a mediocre worker!

Services flight boasts top Airman

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

For the second year in row, the 302nd Services Flight can claim bragging rights to having the Air Force Reserve Command Services Airman of the Year.

The award winner for fiscal year 2007 is Senior Airman Angelo Apodaca, 302nd SVF services technician, who



Senior Airman Angelo Apodaca applies icing to turnovers at the Aragon Dining Hall. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)

volunteered for two deployments spanning more than 120-day increments during his first four years of military reserve duty.

Senior Airman Apodaca first joined the 302nd SVF in March 2003 after serving as a contractor on Peterson Air Force Base where he initially heard about the Air Force Reserve program.

"I had been on base for about three years before I joined the Reserve," said Airman Apodaca. "I think I've learned a lot about leadership and job skills after being deployed."

Airman Apodaca's first deployment came in 2005 to the United Arab Emirates where he spent four months serving as a flightline kitchen supervisor and part of a search and recovery team.

"Being on active duty made me more aware of my job responsibilities," said the Airman. "I consider myself laid-back and have strong values and belief in the job I do. I love the people-oriented and customer service aspect of the job, and think everyone should consider doing a deployment like this at least once during their enlistment."

It wasn't long after his first deployment, Airman Apodaca volunteered for another 180-day tour of duty supporting joint military operations in Alaska where members of the four different branches of service combined efforts to construct a road on an Indian reservation in Ketchikan, Alaska.

While deployed in support of "Operation Alaskan Road" at Camp Wy Wuh, Airman Apodaca served as shift supervisor in the dining facility in charge of two lower ranking Marines and one naval member. For his efforts, Airman Apodaca was awarded the Joint Service Achievement medal.

"He's gone above and beyond his grade level," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Rinaldi, 302nd SVF NCO in charge of readiness. "It shows a lot for him to be supervising on deployment while at the rank of senior airman. I know I can give him a task, and don't have to be there to supervise him. He sets the example for other airman to follow."

Airman Apodaca has recently been employed by the Department of Corrections at the Lavista Correctional Facility in Pueblo, and is pursuing a career in criminal justice.

Top Airman continued on page 10



Lieutenant Col. Michael P. Burns faces a crowd of colleagues and friends during the 302nd Mission Support Group assumption-of-command ceremony during the February unit training assembly. In the background is Master Sgt. Lisa Armendariz, 302nd MSG first sergeant. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Gildner)

MSG welcomes new leader

By Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Gildner
Front Range Flyer

The 302nd Mission Support Group assumption of command reared in a new commander during the February unit training assembly.

Lt. Col. Michael P. Burns took command of the 302nd MSG in an assumption-of-command ceremony officiated by Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander. Col. Burns comes from the 315th Mission Support Squadron, Charleston Air Reserve Base, S.C., where he served as commander.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Melinda Clearwater, 302nd AW performance planner, who served as interim MSG commander.

Colonel Burns also served under Colonel Muscatell at the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Reserve Station, Minneapolis, Minn., from May 2002 to May 2004 as the executive officer.

Wing members earn AFRC writing honors

Staff Sgt. Derrick Gildner, 302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs specialist, was named the outstanding new writer in the 2006 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest Feb. 16. His entry will now compete at the Air Force level.

His winning entry included articles written and published in the *Front Range Flyer* in 2006. They included: "One degree of separation," "Do it' with attitude, action and a plan," "Space force sibling continues growth," "Readiness flight captures AFRC award," and "Wing entertains

thousands in Oshkosh, by gosh!"

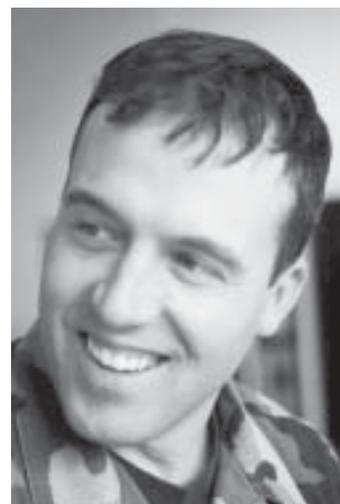
To be eligible for this award, a writer had to be assigned to Public Affairs within the past two years and each writer had to submit five articles from three of five categories – News, Feature, Commentary, Sports and Series.

Sergeant Gildner joined the Air Force in November 1995 as a weather observer. He upgraded into Special Tactics Weather Forecasting in 2001, spending his career with U.S. Army Airborne and Special Forces at Fort Bragg, N.C. and Fort Carson. His

service as a Combat Weatherman included working with NATO and U.S. Special Forces in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. In November 2004, he joined the 302nd AW.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor, editor of the *Front Range Flyer*, placed second in the sports article category with "Maintenance kingpins reclaim bragging rights."

Sergeant Taylor has been with the wing since July 1992 and previously won awards in the 2002 and 2005 contests. This is his fifth AFRC media contest award.



Staff Sgt. Derrick Gildner

Heads will roll at annual St. Baldrick's fund-raiser!

By Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Gildner
Front Range Flyer

More likely, they shall be clean-shaven for a worthy cause.

The April unit training assembly weekend marks the sixth annual St. Baldrick's Fund-raiser, noon until 9 p.m., or until all heads are shaved at Armstrong Hall on the Colorado College Campus.

Firefighters, police, Army, Air Force and

reservists are among the teams contributing to the largest national fundraising event for children's cancer research.

"Local military members are starting to make a significant impact on the overall fund raising," said Carolye Asfahl, Colorado Springs St. Baldrick's coordinator, "We are hoping the challenges between Army, Air Force, local reservists and the local military installations will continue to grow."

The mission of the St. Baldrick's Founda-

tion is to raise awareness and funds to cure children's cancer by supporting childhood cancer research and fellowship grants.

Since 2000, St. Baldrick's has raised \$20 million through head-shaving events both nationwide and abroad.

For more information, visit the official website at www.stbaldricks.org or e-mail the local coordinator at carolye@elope.com.

302nd Airlift Wing Clergy Day set sights on May 21

302nd Airlift Wing Clergy Day will take place May 21. The

event includes an orientation flight on a unit C-130, mission

and family support briefings, a tour of the base chapel and lunch at the Officers' Club.

The day begins at 9 a.m. and the clergy can plan on departing Peterson Air Force Base at 2:30 p.m.

"I am so pleased with this event," said Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Wilson, 302nd AW Chaplain. "The attending clergy have doubled in size regularly."

The sign-up form can be mailed, emailed or faxed to the public affairs office. Formal invitations with a detailed itinerary will be sent to nominated clergy.

Spouses are invited to join the clergy; however, Air Force regulations do not allow them to fly. Arrangements for tours during the clergy's flight have been made for the visiting spouses.

Completed forms need to be returned by April 30. Call the 302nd AW/PA at (719) 556-4117 for more information. To fax nomination forms dial 719-556-4214 or e-mail them to 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil.

Clergy Orientation Nomination form

Clergy name/title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clergy phone (____) _____

Reservist name _____ Unit _____

Clergy special needs (dietary, physical, etc.)? If yes, please explain _____

310th SG adds counter-space mission

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

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFRC) - The 310th Space Group continues to grow. The group has added another unit to its roster as it moves closer to becoming a fully operational space wing.

Constituted by personnel from the 26th Space Aggressor Squadron and others selectively chosen due to their technical backgrounds, the 310th SG's newly activated Detachment 1 is the Reserve Associate Unit to the 21st Space Wing's 16th Space Control Squadron.

"The 16th SPCS, commanded by Lt. Col. Edd Allard, is our active duty counterpart in executing the Rapid Attack Identification Detection System Block 10 mission," said Lt. Col. Mike Assid, Det. 1 commander. "RAIDRS is the Air Force's new 'system of systems' designed to provide next-generation counterspace capabilities to warfighters. The Block 10 systems will detect and geolocate sources

of satellite communications jamming."

The active duty and Reserve units will jointly conduct around-the-clock operations from a central operating location on Peterson Air Force Base and other deployed locations throughout the world, actively monitoring thousands of warfighter satellite communication links and detecting satellite jamming attempts on those signals.



"Once interference is detected, 16th SPCS and Det. 1 operators will intercept and collect (data) on the jamming signals and geolocate the source of the jamming," said Colonel Assid. "This generates a geolocation ellipse that is up-channeled for prosecution as a target or other action higher up the chain of command."

Not all interference, however, is deliberate jamming. "Many times it's inadvertent, the result of operator error or equipment misconfiguration," said the colonel. "We treat everyone equally, and all jamming is presumed hostile until proven otherwise.

"Inadvertent satellite interference is pretty

common," he added. "Folks will mess up their SATCOM configuration and start walking on other signals ... it happens all the time. For satellite owner-operators, time equals money. So they have a compelling reason to locate and remove sources of interference. Additionally, some people pirate transponder time on civilian SATCOM birds."

As the Air Force space mission continues to evolve and create new mission requirements, so does the reliance to fill positions with reserve personnel.

"The RAIDRS Block 10 mission is a joint effort between the Air Force Space Command and Air Force Reserve Command. It's a major win for both," said Colonel Assid. "At a time of severe budget cuts and continuing personnel shortages, RAIDRS Block 10 required a Total Force solution."

For RAIDRS to be successful, people with expertise need to be in place. That's where the 26th SAS comes into play.

"AFSPC, through the 21st SW, has operational direction on the RAIDRS Block 10

Counter-space continued on page 10

6th SOPS assumes Defense Meteorological Satellite Program control

By 1st Lt. Jeremy Cotton
6th Space Operations Squadron

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFRC) - Air Force Reserve Command's 6th Space Operations Squadron here assumed satellite control authority of the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Jan. 29 as National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration officials deployed to Schriever from their facilities in Suitland, Md.

NOAA's deployment to Schriever is the result of a move from an older, outdated facility to a new \$61-million NOAA Satellite Operations Facility in Suitland.

The move required engineers, schedulers and operators from

Maryland to deploy to Schriever to continue command and control functions while 6th SOPS augmented the NOAA crews. NOAA is the primary command-and-control authority for DMSP.

In its first week, the move in Suitland has gone well and is ahead of schedule. NOAA officials powered on the ground system equipment and will begin testing soon. If all goes well, satellite operations will be transferred back to Suitland, Md. by the end of next week.

"The deployment shows how two completely separate departments of the U.S. government - the Department of Commerce and Department of Defense - can integrate their functions and become one in an effort to provide continued, critical meteorological information to

warfighters and civilians worldwide," said Lt. Col. Byron Hays, 6th SOPS commander.

Both 6th SOPS and NOAA have prepared for this move for nearly two years. Problems with electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems caused delays in the move to the new building. Once engineers resolved those problems, planners at NOAA and 6th SOPS set preparations for the move in motion.

Major Cal Peters, 6th SOPS chief of operations, worked with Schriever and NOAA officials to prepare the squadron for NOAA's deployment.

"Crosstalk in space ops is essential in many respects, but getting to sit side-by-side with

our Department of Commerce counterparts has proven to be invaluable," Major Peters said. "We hope to give as much as we glean from them on how to streamline procedures, have big-picture situational awareness as operators, and most of all, ensure we bring down the data."

The NSOF building will host the Polar-orbiting and Geostationary operational environmental satellites and DMSP operations until the follow-on programs are launched and declared operational. The

National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, a combination of DMSP and the Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites, is expected to launch in 2012.



Former Soldier returns to Kirkuk as aerial porter

By Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams
506th Air Expeditionary Group

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFNEWS) – Sitting in the cold cargo bay of a C-17 Globemaster III, a 24-year-old Soldier about to be part of the largest paratrooper air-drop since World War II felt a lot of excitement and a little bit of fear.

The cargo doors opened and the bay was instantly filled with freezing Iraqi air. Looking through his night-vision goggles, he jumped with 1,000 paratroopers into the cold, dark night and into history March 26, 2003.

Their job was to secure an airfield in Bashur, Iraq. They would later take Kirkuk Regional Air Base. Now, four years later, Jason Al-Jehani has returned as a senior airman deployed to the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“When we found out our unit was going to Kirkuk, he really wanted to go,” said Senior Master Sgt.



Senior Airman Jason Al-Jehani moves pallets in the cargo yard at Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, in January. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams)

Soldier continued on page 9



Toys for troops

Left to right, Nancy Muscatell, Kathleen Gregory and Candice Jahner prepare care packages for members of the 39th Aerial Port Squadron who are deployed to Iraq. The packages, which contained food items like coffee and recreational items such as Play-Doh, come from the wing's new family support organization, Family HEARTS. Mrs. Muscatell is the wife of Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander; Mrs. Gregory the wife of Lt. Col. James L Gregory, 39th APS commander; and Mrs. Jahner the wife of Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Jahner, chief of 39th APS. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)



Drink up

Technical Sgt. Nicholas Jones, 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron NCO in charge of readiness, demonstrates the correct way to drink from a canteen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)

Operational Readiness Inspection timeline

Command and Control training	March 3-4
Homestation cargo processing	April 9-16
Homestation personnel processing	April 14-15
Functional exercise at Volk Field, Wis.	April 29 to May 4
Readiness Safeguard at Volk Field	Sept. 24-30
Homestation ORI final preparation	Nov 26-30
ORI	Dec. 1-8

ORI preparation training

En Mass Training
 March 17, June 3,
 October UTA Sunday
 8 a.m.
 Base auditorium
 Bring Airman's
 Manual



Hands-on Training
 May 6, July 8, Aug. 5,
 Sept. 8, Sept. 9
 8 a.m.
 Bldg. 108
 Bring chemical warfare
 training gear, arrive in MOPP 2

Points of contact
 Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Jones
 556-7221, nicholas.jones@peterson.af.mil
 Chief Master Sgt. Sally Arnold
 556-7511, sally.arnold@peterson.af.mil

Mission-oriented protective postures



MOPP 1

Worn: Overgarment and field gear
Carried: Overboots, protective mask and gloves. Aircrew - Overboots, protective mask/hood and gloves



MOPP 2

Worn: Overgarment, overboots and field gear
Carried: Protective mask and gloves. Aircrew - Protective mask/hood and gloves



MOPP 3

Worn: Overgarment, protective mask, hood, overboots and field gear
Carried: Gloves. Aircrew - Overboots, gloves and field gear



MOPP 4

Worn: Overgarment, protective mask, hood, gloves, overboots and field gear. Aircrew - Overgarment, mask/hood, gloves, overboots, overcape
Carried: Aircrew - Field gear



Senior Master Sgt. Dean Firestien, 506th Logistics Readiness Squadron Air Terminal Operation Center chief, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, is among the 15 reservists from the 39th Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Iraq. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

Soldier continued from page 7

Dean Firestien, the 506th LRS Air Terminal Operation Center chief. “Ever since we got him, he’s been real gung-ho.”

Airman Al-Jehani, then a javelin gunner and private first class, recounts that the 173rd Airborne Brigade didn’t know how much resistance they would receive.

“It could have been like D-Day or Market Garden,” he said referring to two very different airdrops in WWII. “I was mostly worried about making a mistake before leaving the airplane.”

He didn’t make any mistakes, but they were all a little startled when the plane increased its altitude after the cargo doors opened.

“When we first started our jump, the aircraft was too low ... it started climbing as we were jumping out, but we didn’t lose focus,” he said. “It was a good combat jump.”

Once they were on the ground, it was time to re-group and take accountability.

“No one was seriously injured. Only a few minor sprains,” he said. “Some people landed in streams, in the middle of roads and a few were hanging from power lines. We had to wait until it was safe before we got them down.”

With only pockets of resistance, they were able to secure the airfield at Bashur so airlift into the region could begin. They rallied at a prison built by Saddam Hussein’s regime before moving on to another operation. About a week later, they took Kirkuk.

“We had some minor resistance in the city,” he said. “By the time we got to the base, it was abandoned. There were some minor booby-traps and vehicles on the runway. We did some police action in the city by keeping order and making sure the hospital wasn’t looted.”

Kirkuk then became headquarters for the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 4th Infantry Division. The then Private 1st Class Al-Jehani left Iraq Feb. 12, 2004.

He separated from the Army and joined

the Air Force Reserve and is an air transportation apprentice with the 39th Aerial Port Squadron.

Returning to Kirkuk as an Airman has been interesting for the former Soldier. Some things have changed since he left and some things are still the same.

“The base is more built up ... more fortified,” he said. “When we first arrived, we stayed in an old Iraqi building, and then we moved into tents. Those tents are still here. The (dining facility) is the same.

“It’s kind of strange,” he said of not being in the Army. “A lot of stuff I have forgotten has come back. It feels good. It’s a new experience now – a different job and I’m broadening my skills.”

While some have gone “blue to green,” the Air Force can benefit from this Soldier going “green to blue” and the experience he brings with him, said Sergeant Firestien.

“We are glad to have him. He is very motivated, and he gets the job done.”

Counter-space continued from page 6

mission, while AFRC provides critical manpower and space control expertise,” said Col. Jeff Ansted, 310th SG commander. “That’s why we turned to our Reserve Space Aggressors to form the core cadre for Det. 1: the Air Force’s subject matter experts in SATCOM jamming come from the 26th SAS.”

Space aggressor squadron members seem to be more than adequately equipped to meet challenges that comes with the new mission.

“One of the strengths of the space aggressors is the broad range of experience brought to the table,” said Colonel Assid. “I think there is something like 23 different Air Force Specialty Codes in the squadron, ranging from combat aviators of various stripes to intelligence personnel to engineers to space bubbas like me.”

The diverse background of personnel should serve as a benefit when Det. 1 becomes a fully-operational squadron in October with an estimated manning of 41 Active Guard Reserve and 49 traditional Reserve members, and efforts underway to secure an appropriate lineage for the new reserve space control squadron’s mission.

“We have submitted a request through our wing historian to the Air Force Historical Research Agency,” said Colonel Assid. “Until we get some feedback from AFHRA, it would be premature to reveal the squadron designator we’ve requested. For now, let’s say we’re trying to reactivate one of the original WWII-era squadrons of the 310th Bombardment Group (M).

“With the 310th SG becoming a wing this year, we felt it was time to finally bring back one of the legacy squadrons. The 310th flew more missions than any other medium bomb group in the European theater in WWII and has a very colorful history. It’s a great heritage – one trend we hope to continue for the new 310th SW squadrons.”

Top Airman continued from page 4

“Law enforcement is definitely my passion,” said the Airman. “I’ve taken a couple of classes at Pikes Peak Community College toward an associate’s degree and would like to work for the Colorado Springs Police Department. I’ve also applied for a position with the County Sheriff’s Department.”

His career aspirations and military dedication didn’t go unnoticed by his superiors.

“I wasn’t surprised he was selected for the award,” said Master Sgt. Terry Brassard, 302nd SVFNCO in charge of plans and force management. “Iknew we had the right person for the award. This is a definite benefit for Airman Apodaca and the 302nd Airlift Wing.”

UTA Schedule

Next UTA: March 3-4

April 14-15

May 5-6

June 2-3

The next UTA schedule is printed in more detail on page 10. The *Front Range Flyer* is mailed each month to all 302nd Airlift Wing members on file with Personnel Systems. If you are not receiving your magazine, check with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address is correct.

UTA Schedule – Feb. 10-11

Saturday

6 – 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
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Physical Exams	
Clinic		556-1132
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
Noon – 4:30 p.m.	Customer Service Hours	
Bldg. 895, Room 121		556-8185
12:15 – 3:30 p.m.	CDC/PME Testing	
Bldg. 625		556-7573/7250/7950
1 – 4 p.m.	Chaplain Available	
Bldg. 893, Room 143		556-7428
4:30 – 6 p.m.	Dinner	
Aragon Dining Facility		556-4180
6 p.m.	Annual Enlisted Awards Dinner	
Antlers Hilton Hotel		See a first sergeant
9 – 11 p.m.	Late Night Carry-out	
Aragon Dining Facility		556-4180

Sunday

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

✓ **Can’t make the UTA but made lodging reservations? Contact Master Sgt. Terry Brassard, (719) 556-4001 or 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@302.peterson.af.mil.**

Sharp Troop of the Month



Name: Laila Rose M. Fernandez
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Section: 302nd Airlift Wing
Job: Command Post
Date assigned: November 2005
Hometown: Lancaster, Calif.
Hobbies: Traveling, spending time with my family, shopping, arts and crafts, Hawaiian dancing
 Favorite thing about my job: "Working with people who make you enjoy your job and show you what a 'real family atmosphere' is like."
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) 556-411, or toll free (800) 446-9624.

Reserve wants 'virtual' accounts to become reality

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Air Force Reserve Command wants its officers, senior NCOs and supervisors to establish virtual Personnel Center-Guard/Reserve accounts by April 2.

Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, AFRC vice commander, urges all reservists to get a vPC-GR account, by logging on to <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR>.

"Our personnel center is the hub of our transformation efforts, and vPC-GR is our tool to transition reservists to these Web-based personnel services," he wrote in a letter to commanders Feb. 1.

As part of the Personnel Services Deliv-

ery Transformation, the Web-based system allows reservists to conduct personal transactions and access information without visiting a military personnel flight.

They can monitor their duty histories, request changes and updates, and apply for retirement online. Also, commanders and supervisors can submit their people for awards and decorations electronically.

Actions still available at local MPFs are testing, casualty assistance, passports, contingency exercises, leave accrual and personnel support for contingency operations. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Promotions

Master Sergeant

Priscilla Y. Johnson
 Robert A. Kerr
 Isaac Lopez

Technical Sergeant

Edward P. Dunn
 Sheila M. Figueroa
 Michael S. Goode
 Nicholas A. Jones
 Ronald K. Sweeten Jr.

Josefina Tarango

Jerri L. Tubbs
 Paul A. Wiggins Jr.

Staff Sergeant

Hope M. Clark-Vasquez
 Amanda C. Hlavacek
 Melinda M. Osborne
 Jose A. Rodriguez

Senior Airman

Denise A. Duran

Daniel P. Kendall

Michael J. Pollard
Airman 1st Class

Penelope Placido
Airman

Bridgette N. Gutierrez
 Meagan N. Indermuehle
 Brianne A. Ives
 Sarah E. Lundy
 Jessica N. Savage

Newcomers

310th Space Group

Staff Sgt. Bobby Adams
 Capt. Shanna Corbett

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Dela Cuz
 Senior Airman Tyler J. Farkas
 Staff Sgt. Daron S. Holmes
 Staff Sgt. Timothy Hostetter
 Staff Sgt. Steven Nedorolik

Tech. Sgt. Ivan Palaez

Tech. Sgt. Jacqueline K. Pinkett-Smith

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Sigley
 Airman 1st Class Alan Walker
 Master Sgt. Melia K. Walton

70th Flying Training Squadron

Staff Sgt. Matthew Burge
 Maj. Christopher Rea

310th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. James Gavin

731st Airlift Squadron

Senior Airman Natessa J. Gilbert

8th Space Warning Squadron

2nd Lt. Maria L. Gronning

6th Space Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Daniel Han

7th Space Operations Squadron

1st Lt. Carrie I. Hernandez
 Capt. Adin Umana

39th Aerial Port Squadron

Airman 1st Class Amy I. Jones

310th Communications Flight

Staff Sgt. Sherman C. Jones

302nd Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jessica S. Malmgren

Airman 1st Class Joshua K. Rasmussen

302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Stephanie Manszah

Airman Donald G. Myers

302nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Paul Swanson

Reserve National Space Security Institute

Maj. Blair F. Thompson

302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Senior Airman Heather McBride

14th Test Squadron

Capt. Marc. Weber

Retirements

Master Sgt. Richard Cross, 302nd MXS
 Tech. Sgt. Scott Flack, 302nd AW



Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 11
 2 a.m.

Turn your clocks
 ahead one hour



USAFA/Fort Carson blood drive

U.S. Air Force Academy

March 19-21, Arnold Hall ballroom, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enter North Gate, exit 156B off of I-25, and go 4.5 miles to the Arnold Hall parking lot. Non-DOD visitors will need a picture ID to access the base.

Fort Carson

March 22-23, Special Events Center, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (time tentative)

Annual Awards

302nd AW
honors
outstanding
Airmen



1st Lt. Jody Ritchie, 302nd Airlift Wing, Company Grade Officer of the Year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)



Left to right, Senior Master Sgt. Garrin Pies, 302nd Maintenance Squadron, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Robert Bostick, 302nd Services Flight, NCO of the Year; and Senior Airman Abdul-Ganeu Abdulai, 302nd MXS, Airman of the Year. These Airmen will advance to 22nd Air Force competition in their quest to be named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenni Deylius)



Master Sgt. Michael Orawiec, 302nd Security Forces Squadron, First Sergeant of the Year, and his wife, Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Orawiec, who is an air reserve technician with the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Allen Clutter, 21st Space Communications Squadron)



Retired Maj. Gen. Bentley Rayburn served as guest speaker. (U.S. Air Force photo by Allen Clutter, 21st Space Communications Squadron)

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