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December 2007



# FRONT RANGE FLYER

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

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



**Firefighters face challenge**

see pages 4 & 5

Front Range Flyer  
Vol. 22, No. 12 Dec. 2007



On the cover



An Air Force C-130 is pictured against the California horizon while others await take-off to battle wild-land fires. (U.S. Air Force photo/1st. Lt. Jody Ritchie)

Inside this issue ...

- ORI underway .....3
- MAFFS in California .....4-5
- Gen. Schwartz visits.....6
- Around the Wing.....7

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302nd AW Web sites

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

# We have a choice regarding our attitudes

By Col. James Muscatell Jr.  
302nd AW commander

As this article comes out, we are in the last hours preparing for our deployment to Gulfport, Miss.

Our success will depend on two factors--attitude and a sense of emergency. If you make a mistake, just pick yourself up, learn from it and move on. The Inspector General knows we're not perfect and they are

looking at how we react under pressure.

Chuck Swindoll is a noted gospel minister who conducts the famous "Insight for Living" broadcasts in every Christian radio market in all 50 states and more than 2,100 worldwide outlets in numerous foreign languages. I'd like to paraphrase something he once said:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than facts, more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, or say, or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill."

It will make or break us during this Operational Readiness Inspection!

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change the fact

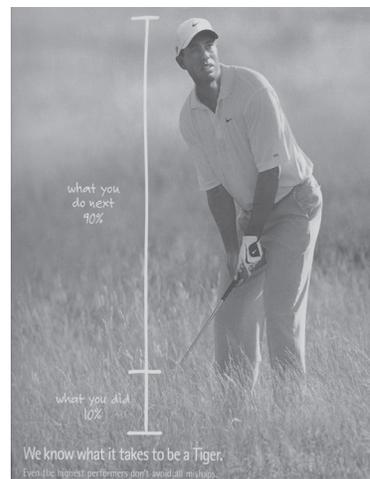


Col. James Muscatell Jr.

that people will act in certain ways. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is attitude.

I'm convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me, and 90 percent of how I react to it. This picture of Tiger Woods says a lot.

Although our time is consumed with the ORI, don't forget to enjoy family time this holiday season. Nancy and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2008.



## Air Force Reserve to operate with fewer reservists in 2008

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Air Force Reserve Command will operate with a smaller force in 2008.

The fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations Act signed by President George W. Bush Nov. 13 funds an end-strength of 67,500 reservists. Last year the projected end strength was 74,900.

The new legislation also approves 9,999 full-time



air reserve technicians and 2,721 full-time Active Guard and Reserve reservists.

The defense bill provides DOD with nearly \$460 billion in discretionary funding and funds a 3.5-percent,

cross-the-board military pay raise for active and reserve

forces.

From this act, AFRC receives about \$1.36 billion for its reserve personnel appropriation and about \$2.82 billion in operation and maintenance funds to run the command.

The amount for military construction funding will be finalized when the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs bill is passed. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

**Wing Commander**  
Col. James J. Muscatell Jr.  
**Chief of Public Affairs**  
Maj. James Wilson  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
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# December ORI set to get underway

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

The wing heads into its Operational Readiness Inspection Dec. 1-8 at Gulfport, Miss. It seems like just yesterday wing reservists and technicians alike began preparing for the ORI.

Initial training began last summer with Ability To Survive and Operate classes. Subsequent months were devoted to hands-on scenarios, "En Mass" training at the base auditorium and refreshing courses based on the Airman's manual.

The time has arrived for wing members to demonstrate how those long hours of training, updating records and expounding on the deadly-seven criteria translate in to a final grade for the ORI.

"We're down to the wire now," said Maj. Alan Flolo, 302nd Airlift Wing executive officer. "Our skill level and training over

the past months will come to the forefront and enable us to perform at maximum capacity."

The wing will be observed and tested while performing in chemical environments, establishing command and control centers, initiating post recovery after attack teams, providing augmenting security elements, identifying unexploded ordinance and administering first aid.

The ORI inspection team will provide scenarios for wing members to demonstrate how they'll react and engage variations of the exercise elements pertaining to testable criteria.

"I think we'll do well," said Master Sgt. Billee Adams, 302nd Logistics Readiness planner. "However, we must keep our heads in the game."

With a year and a half of training behind them, the wing should be prepared for just about any exercise scenario they might



Senior Master Sgt. Michael Blakely, 302nd Civil Engineer Readiness Flight instructs a litter team lead by Col. James Muscatell, 302nd AW commander. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. David Morton)

encounter.

"After what I've observed over the past year, there's no doubt you'll exceed your expectations," said Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd AW commander. "You've trained hard. Keep positive attitudes and show a sense of urgency."

## Changes characterize Airlift Control Flight

By Staff Sgt. Derrick M. Gildner  
*Front Range Flyer*

Autumn brings about many changes and if there is a group that knows how to change faster than the seasons, it's the assortment of talents, careers and background which makeup an airlift control flight at the 302nd Airlift Wing.

In the past year, the small but mighty ALCF at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., has deployed their members to Germany, Djibouti, Iraq, Qatar, and Afghanistan.

Upon deployment the ALCF becomes a Tactical Airlift Control Flight. Their primary focus is on aircrew management, aircraft flight following, maintenance of aircraft, and the loading and unloading of aircraft.

This group is well known in the deployed environment. Among special tactics Airmen,

they are viewed as the "Calvary." Getting in is easy but the first critical support often comes with the TALCE to maintain operations until larger contingencies arrive.

For special tactics members the TALCE is a sight for sore eyes, especially when there is a need for flexibility and modification.

"The needs and requirements call for so many changes and the enlisted members meet those challenges in deployed environment and locally," said Lt. Col. Doug Strawbridge, former 302nd ALCF commander.

ALCF members may work independently or along side their active-duty counterparts.

"We deployed as an entire unit this summer to Ft. Bliss, Texas, for an exercise called Desert Warrior," said the colonel. "Everyone performed

duties well outside of our job descriptions which directly led to the missions being accomplished every single



Master Sgt. Jeff Flight (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick Gildner

day." The hard work of members assigned to the airlift control flight was recognized recently

when eight enlisted members received letters of appreciation and were awarded Army accommodation medals by Col. Karl A. Schmitkons, 302nd Operations Group commander.

"The ALCF team has gone far and above what was asked of them," said Colonel Schmitkons. "Their commitment to the total force concept helps the Air Force and the Army accomplishes critical steps important to continued successes in the Middle East."

"That level of commitment from citizen airmen, and sacrifices from their families and the employers shows a dedication to mission success."

Colonel Strawbridge has moved on to a new position at the 561st Joint Tactics Squadron, Air Warfare Center at Nellis, AFB, Nev. Reservists in the ALCF are now led by their new commander and former director of operations, Maj. James Travis.

# 302ND AIRLIFT WING FIGHTS FI

By 1st Lt. Jody L. Ritchie  
*Front Range Flyer*

## At a moment's notice

It was 7:10 and police officer Steven P. Blaskowsky was driving home having just finished a graveyard shift at the Monument Police Department in Colorado when the phone rang.

Four hours later, Tech. Sgt. Blaskowsky, 302nd Maintenance Squadron crew chief, ran across a flight line at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. to catch a departing Air Force Reserve C-130 aircraft headed to Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif.

Hundreds of people in Southern California were evacuating their homes as 13 fires throughout the region advanced on urban areas. Firefighters were struggling to put out flames being stoked by the dry,

***“This is a dynamic, quick-paced operation,” said Sgt. Blaskowsky. “And I like that mode — it’s a nice change of pace.”***

hurricane-force Santa Ana winds.

In order to help combat the fires, the United States Forest Service requested fire-fighting assistance through the Department of Defense for the Air Force Reserve Component’s specially equipped C-130 aircraft, the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System.

The MAFFS are currently flown by one reserve wing, the 302nd AW and two Air National Guard wings, the 145th AW, Charlotte, N.C. and the 153rd AW, Cheyenne, Wyo. All six MAFFS were headed to California along with personnel.

However, in order for police officer Blaskowsky and the many other citizen Airmen to leave civilian jobs in a matter of hours, they must have the support of their employers and family members.

“My family provides a great support structure,” said Sergeant Blaskowsky. “My employer has to jump through hoops

to make schedule adjustments, but is very supportive. I couldn’t do this without all the support I get.”

Along with a home and work based support system, citizen Airmen must also be willing to make personal sacrifices when duty knocks at the last minute.

Senior Airman Allen S. Clutter, 302nd MXS crew chief, was making up a drill weekend when he received word of the activation at 7:30 a.m. He went home quickly to pack a bag, and was on a C-130 in time for an 11:30 a.m. departure. Airman Clutter works and is a full-time student. His short-notice departure means he’ll have to drop a class that is too demanding to make up when he returns.

Since the 302nd AW aircraft and members were the first to arrive, they found a flight line that was not yet ready for flight operations. The 302nd Maintenance Group contingent got right to work setting up the MAFFS pits.

“We helped move some of the California Guard’s J-model aircraft to the other side of the ramp so we could set up the pits,” said Airman Clutter. “Then we helped the U.S. Forest Service set up the equipment in the pits.”

“The pits” are a series of three stations where MAFFS aircraft are washed off after every drop, refueled and filled with the slurry they drop in front of advancing fires.

The maintenance crews resemble a NASCAR pit crew when a C-130 parks in their pit. Once the engines are shut down, the crew gets to work and are able to get the aircraft ready for another mission in as little as eight minutes.

“This is a dynamic, quick-paced operation,” said Sergeant Blaskowsky. “And I like that mode — it’s a nice change of pace.”

When the aircraft are flying a mission, the crews clean the ramp, maintain the generators and pumps used to fill the aircraft. Then they find an empty chair under the blue

shade tent in a hot, dusty field just off the flight line and wait for the next aircraft to arrive.

The MAFFS flying mission is challenging and pushes the aircraft with low flying, hard turns and bumpy air pockets. The maintenance crews are ready for long hours if anything malfunctions. The job can be tiresome, but the aircraft’s condition reflects pride the crews have in their work.

“Seeing the noticeable difference in the fires is satisfying,” said Airman Clutter. “When we arrived, the sky was orange and smelled of smoke. Now we can see blue sky and the air is cleaner. We are making a difference.”



Master Sgt. Thomas Freeman, and Senior Airman Lamont W. [Name] check the MAFFS instrument panel prior to dropping fire retardant on California fires. (U.S. Air Force photo courtesy of Comb

# FIRE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By 1st Lt. Jody L. Ritchie  
Front Range Flyer

## Firefighters face challenges

Military crews in the planes dropping fire retardant on wildfires in southern California face hazards and challenges unique to their humanitarian mission

First is the low altitude at which they fly, and the sudden, violent updrafts and downdrafts caused by the heat of the fire.

Another factor is the sudden changes in the aircraft's behavior when more than 20,000 pounds of fire retardant slurry are released from the plane. Then there's the smoke that reduces visibility as the crew

maneuvers in airspace shared by other aircraft. The crews have a fully engaging experience every time they fly.

With those challenges in mind, crews train to ensure they can handle the hazards of flying the C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the U.S. Forest Service's Modular Airborne Fire Firefighting Systems or MAFFS.

"Not everybody can do this. You have to prove you can handle it," said Maj. Wiley D. Walno II, a pilot with the Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing based in Cheyenne, Wyo.

When the first fire started in southern



An Air Force C-130 emerges over a mountain ridge in Southern California during October's devastating wild-land fires. (U.S. Air Force photo/courtesy of Combat Camera)



Wood, 731st Airlift squadron MAFFS loadmasters retardant on one of the many out-of-control Southern California wildfires. (U.S. Air Force photo/courtesy of Combat Camera)

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***"We've got people that wait for years to get an opportunity to get certified for this mission," said Lt. Col. Dave Condit, the Air Force Reserve Command MAFFS program coordinator.***

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California this month, the news had the attention of reserve component airmen across the country. It was long before members of the Air Force reserve and Air National Guard joined forces to assist the firefighters battling blazes on the ground. The Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing in Colorado responded quickly.

"I enjoy this job. If I didn't I wouldn't be doing it," said Major Walno, who has been flying MAFFS missions for 13 years.

"We've got people that wait for years to get an opportunity to get certified for this mission," said Lt. Col. Dave Condit, the Air Force Reserve Command MAFFS program coordinator and 302nd Airlift Wing pilot based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "We only take the most experienced

aircrew members, and we go through a lot of training and preparation for this."

The training ensures Defense Department assets are ready to use the equipment when called upon by civil authorities.

"The complexity of the air traffic with nearby Los Angeles International Airport makes the current activation a little different for others," Major Walno said.

"It's real busy up there with all the LAX traffic," he noted, but our traffic alert and collision avoidance system keeps us away from other aircraft."

That system communicates with traffic alert and collision avoidance systems on other aircraft, and it's required on jets carrying more than 30 passengers. Pilots flying aircraft that get too close to one another are warned by the system to steer the aircraft away from each other.

As the aircraft get close to their retardant drop location, they must change their communication channels so they can talk to the incident commander assigned to the fire, who coordinates all the ground and air assets to provide the most effective fire fighting possible.

"Logistically, there are a lot of pieces that fit together," Major Walno said. "It's amazing."

# U.S. Transportation Command commander visits the wing

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

In the span of one short month the 302nd Airlift Wing has continued its preparations for December's upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection, been activated to help contain raging wild land fires near San Diego, Calif., and hosted a four-star general.

Gen. Norton Schwartz, U.S. Transportation Command commander, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. manages global air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, and is a command pilot with more than 4,200 of flying hours in multiple Air Force aircraft.

It's no coincidence his visit to the 302nd AW coincided with the wing's activation to fight the out of control wild land fires in southern California.

"Domestic use of our capabilities is a moral obligation," said the general. "Clearly, you all have a sense of this. Some missions are more public than others. This clearly is a very public application of your capability."

The general was introduced to wing leadership and given a detailed mission brief of what the wing's vision for the

future is, and how the unit's aircraft can be more viably used with respect to the total force concept.

That concept includes acquiring an active associate C-130 unit, a C-130 maintenance squadron, active duty and Air National Guard C-21 flying units and



Gen. Norton Schwartz

an air-evacuation squadron as part of the wing under one umbrella for fiscal year 2009.

"In the long run, it will save the taxpayers money and hopefully provide you more assets," said Col. James J.

Muscattell Jr., 302nd AW commander. "The total force integration is alive and well here at the 302nd AW. The wing is successful only because of the great people working here. I'm honored and blessed to get to work with them every day. We're part of the triumvirate, or triad. I don't think this country would be great if it wasn't for the combination of the active duty, guard and reserve."

General Schwartz also had a message of recognition for wing members. "I salute you for the mission you do here," said the general. "I appreciate being at the front end of this. I salute your devotion and I respect it."

Wing members representing a variety of work areas were present for the meeting with the general. Those members included: Lt. Col. Dave Condit, 302nd AW chief of safety, Lt. Col. Melinda Clearwater, 302nd AW performance manager, Col. Karl Schmitkons, 302nd Operations Group commander, Lt. Col. Ron Wilt, 302nd Operations Group deputy commander, Lt. Col. Michael Burns, 302nd Mission Support Group commander, Col. Mark Rodriguez, 302nd Maintenance Group commander and 2nd Lt. F. Robert Schnell, 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron transportation officer.



## News to use

### Air Force's 'Knowledge Now' available

The Air Force now has available a "virtual community", Knowledge Now. Individuals can share information with their peers anywhere in the world.

The community is accessible through the Air Force Portal and designed to allow Airmen of all ranks, specialties and skill levels to communicate with each other on various topics.

Subjects are divided into databases and joint work spaces called Communities of Practice. These "communities" serve as a resource for Airmen who need information to accomplish a mission.

Knowledge Now can be found at <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil> or via the Air Force Portal so users can access the system from home.

### Force development tool released

The Airmen Development Plan is a new, Web-based decision

support tool to integrate numerous force development tools, including electronic records, duty histories and assignment preferences into one platform.

Phase one of the ADP launch will apply to active-duty officers and will replace the transitional Officer Development Plan or T-ODP.

In February 2008, phase two will replace the transitional Civilian Development Plan and will incorporate the developmental education nomination process.

ADP is accessed via the AFPC secure Web site and Air Force portal and will be the one tool for all active-duty officers and civilians to convey desired assignment, professional de-

velopment, intermediate and senior developmental education, and leadership preferences to senior raters and development teams.

When development teams review Airmen careers, they will use the ADP to "vector" Airmen into the right experiences or the right education to meet their career goals and the needs of the Air Force.

Through the new system, senior raters and development teams will have access to personnel records, performance and training reports, and decoration citations online.

For more information about Knowledge Now or ADP, or to read these Air Force Print News stories, go online to <http://www.af.mil/news/story>.

# UTA Schedule – Dec. 1-2

## Saturday

|                     |                         |                           |                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6–8 a.m.            | Breakfast/Brunch        | Aragon Dining Facility    | 556-4180              |
| 7:30–11 a.m.        | Newcomers Orientation   | Bldg. 895, 2nd Fl Conf Rm | 556-8185              |
| 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. | Physical Exams          | Clinic                    | 556-1132              |
| 7:45–11 a.m.        | MPF Hours               | 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.–4 p.m.      | Family Day              | Bldg. 210, Bay 1          | 556-4001              |
| 1 p.m.              | CDC/PME Testing         | Bldg. 895, Suite 103      | 556-7573<br>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              |
| 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 a.m.–Noon | MPF Hours                                   | Bldg. 895, Room 219A      | 556-8185              |
| 8 a.m.         | CDC/PME Testing                             | Bldg. 895, Suite 103      | 556-7573<br>7250/7950 |
| 9–10 a.m.      | First Sgt. Council Mig.                     | Bldg. 890, 2nd Fl Conf Rm | 556-6596              |
| 10–11 a.m.     | Homosexual Policy Trng.<br>(Odd month UTAs) | Bldg. 893, Suite 111      | 556-8140              |
| 11 a.m.–Noon   | Human Resources<br>Development Council      | Bldg. 216, Conf Rm        | 556-4117              |
| 11 a.m.–Noon   | Chiefs' Group Meeting                       | Aragon Dining Facility    | 556-8132              |
| 11 a.m.–1 p.m. | Lunch                                       | Aragon Dining Facility    | 556-4180              |
| Noon–1 p.m.    | Junior Enlisted<br>Advisory Council         | Bldg. 895, 2nd Fl Conf Rm | 556-7550              |
| 4–6 p.m.       | Dinner                                      | Aragon Dining Facility    | 556-4180              |

\* Can't make the UTA but made lodging reservations? Contact Senior 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@peterson.af.mil.

## UTA Schedule

Dec. 1-2, Jan 12-13, Feb. 7-8

The Front Range Flyer is mailed each month to all 302nd Airlift Wing members on file. If you are not receiving your magazine, check virtual MPF, or with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address is correct.

## Promotions

### 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Cecelia L. Bevel  
Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Czubik  
Staff Sgt. Sonja M. Earle  
Senior Airman Shawna R. Hoffman  
Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Huskins  
Tech. Sgt. Tricia M. Ochinang  
Staff Sgt. Ralph J. J. Jr. Padia  
Staff Sgt. Armando D. Padua  
Airman Anna L. Comar

### 302nd Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Marco A. Cotto  
Staff Sgt. Jason D. Roeske

### 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Sean S. Hammerland

### Maintenance Operations Flight

Staff Sgt. Julie A. Glass  
Tech. Sgt. Robert J. Migliore

### 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Staff Sgt. Betty Jennifer Foote  
Staff Sgt. Kevin Obrien

### 302nd Security

#### Forces Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Darwin J. Baker

### 39th Aerial Port Squadron

Master Sgt. Deann Chakhaliani

### 6th Space Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Donald Malone

### 710th Security Forces Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Daniel R. Calhoun

## Newcomers

### 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Valencia S. Banks  
Staff Sgt. Laura A. Brennan  
Staff Sgt. Holly L. Payne

### 710th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Mitchell J. Armbruster  
Senior Airman Christopher W. Kincaid  
Senior Airman Tiffanie I. Knight

### 302nd Operations Support Flight

Maj. Christopher R. Anderson

### 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Thip T. Anderson  
Senior Airman Eric C. Costen  
Senior Airman Roshawnda M. Walker

Tech. Sgt. Patricia M. Alavarado

Tech. Sgt. Magdalena Ortega-Sauer

Tech. Sgt. Patrick S. Parice

Senior Airman Steven K. Joo

Airman Basic Gabrielle J. Schnerle

### 302nd Services Flight

Senior Airman Shannon M. Jones

### 19th Space Operations

Capt. Luke J. Rostowske

### 310th Mission Support Group

Tech. Sgt. Jay A. Lindley

Senior Airman Pamela R. Simmons

### 310th Space Group

Senior Airman Charles E. Sanchez

Capt. Heather Swanson

### Reserve National Security Space Institute

Master Sgt. Bradley E. Rains

### 39th Aerial Port Squadron

Senior Airman Jennifer Cooley

Senior Airman Shawn Cooley

### 7th Space Operations Squadron

Capt. Laura E. Morris

### 8th Space Warning Squadron

Capt. Nathan J. Dole

### 302nd Security Forces

Senior Airman Alexine I. Chavez

Airman 1st Class Mindee L. Diehl

### 26th Space Aggressor Squadron

Lt. Col. Kimberly D. Lammertin

Senior Airman Ross M. Walline

## Retirements

Master Sgt. Henry Cossou, 302nd MXS

Chief Master Sgt. Eric Delius, 302nd MSS

Lt. Col. William McCrindle, 731st AS

Lt. Col. William Obrien, 731st AS

Master Sgt. Gregory Parker, 302nd CES

Staff Sgt. Joseph Phipps, 302nd SFS

Staff Sgt. Robert Ritter, 39th APS

Tech. Sgt. David Rivers, 302nd MXS

Tech. Sgt. John Trojak,

302nd Aircraft Maintenance

Senior Master Sgt. Jimmy Ward, 39th APS



**Above:** Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander serves a thanksgiving meal during the November UTA. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Heather Garrett) **Below:** Chief Master Sgt. Eric P. Deylius upon his retirement. (U.S. Air Force photo/Chief Master Sgt. James Riley)



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