

Take advantage of the bennies you've earned ... See 6

FRONT-RANK
FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally
Vol. 24, No. 4 Winter 2009

HERE

COME

YOUR

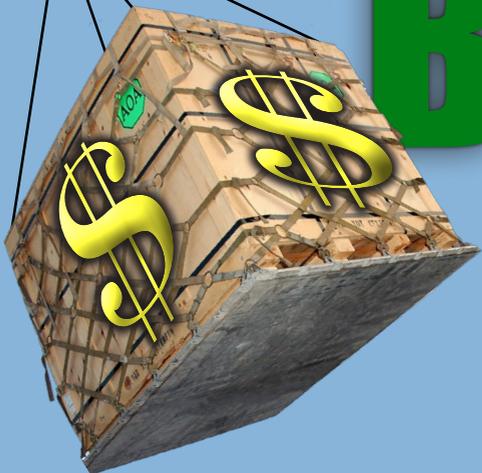
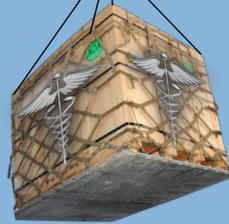
BENEFITS



Why aren't you
enrolled with Reserve
Tuition Assistance?

More on 8

302ND AIRLIFT WING
U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, COLO.



FRONT &

\\ CENTER //

FRONT RANGE FLYER

Vol. 24, No. 4 // WINTER EDITION

Editorial Staff

Commander, 302nd Airlift Wing

COL. JAY PITTMAN

Chief, Public Affairs

ANN SKARBAN

Officers

MAJ. KALLECE QUINN

CAPT. JODY RITCHIE

CAPT. HEATHER GARRETT

Editor

STAFF SGT.

STEPHEN COLLIER

Staff

TECH. SGT. DANIEL BUTTERFIELD

STAFF SGT. JENNI DEYLIUS

SENIOR AIRMAN

MORANDA MATHIEU

ALEXIE GIRTIN

REBEKAH WILLIAMSON

Contact Us

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

450 W. Hamilton Ave., Ste. 138

Peterson AFB, CO 80914

Tel: (719) 556-4117

Fax: (719) 556-4214

Email: 302aw.pa@peterson.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve Command newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Front Range Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. All photographs are official Air Force Reserve photos unless otherwise indicated.

Happy Holidays! I would like to wish all members of the 302nd Airlift Wing and their families a very happy and memorable holiday season. I hope you'll be able to take some well-deserved time off and enjoy quality time with family and friends. While some of us will be able to spend time with loved ones this season, it's important we remember those who are away, serving our nation thousands of miles from home.

During this year's busy holiday season, some of you may find yourselves traveling and celebrating more often than any other time of the year. Those activities coupled with winter weather driving can pose risks. Please keep your safety and the safety of those around you in mind at all times. You are a valuable asset to this wing and one we can't afford to lose!

This past year has been busy and filled with major challenges and successes. The Active Duty Air Force's 52nd Airlift Squadron's association with our Wing, as well as passing the Unit Compliance Inspection and Maintenance Standardization and Evaluation Program were just a few achievements for the wing in 2009.

With the UCI and MSEP behind us, the coming year's priorities will shift to Individual Mobilization Readiness, OPR and EPR completion, Fit-to-Fight, Unit Compliance Inspection corrective actions and preparations for the Operational Readiness Exercise. As you can see, our busy workload will continue.

Thank you for all you do - it is truly appreciated and makes the 302nd Airlift Wing the outstanding unit that it is. My best to you and your families. Have a Happy New Year!



Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

TURN THE PAGE >>



It's official: the Department of Defense has restricted the use of text messaging on cell phones while on base. Learn more on 4



Kangaroos have joined the unit. And it may affect your organization. See 10



A newly-resurrected program aims to provide better diversity to the 302nd and the Air Force Reserve. See 11



BENEFITS: AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR RESERVE LIFE



Lt. Col. Michael Burns

302nd Mission Support Group commander

When was the last time you took a look at the benefits available to you as a Reservist? Even though AF Reserve duty is a part-time commitment for some, Reserve benefits are available all of the time. These benefits are part of your service to our country. It's important that each of us realize what's available to us and our families.

Many of these benefits can help save or make better use of your money. You can save on groceries and household items by shopping at the commissary and the base exchange. Are you paying gym membership fees? You don't have to with access to state-of-the-art fitness facilities on base. Peterson has other facilities that provide entertainment for families such as a swimming pool, bowling alley, library and a free movie theater. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance is a low-cost alternative to private life insurance. You even have access to legal assistance and a thrift savings plan.

Have you checked out what the Airman and Family Readiness Center has to offer? Several programs are available to help with deployments and struggling Airmen and their families. These programs start with pre-deployment briefings and continue until the Airman is fully-transitioned back into his

or her pre-deployment routine. They also offer financial planning, home buying seminars, beginner's investing, estate planning and budgeting services.

Medical and dental care are also available to Reserve members. Annual medical physicals and dental check-ups are performed for free, as are vaccinations and flu shots. There are many different TRICARE programs available that could save you and your family medical insurance premiums.

Educational benefits are a great way to pursue your learning goals. The G.I. Bill and Post 9/11 G.I. Bill help make attending college more affordable for members and their dependents. Tuition assistance is also available for Reserve members. Many trade and technical schools can also be funded through this program. An Airman can even transfer some of their tuition benefits to family members if they have deployed or have been on Active Duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Education should be a life-long commitment and the Air Force provides avenues to help bring down the cost of your education.

Another benefit to mention is travel, and not only the travel associated with TDYs and

deployments. Space-available flights on a variety of mobility aircraft are a great way to see other parts of the U.S. on the cheap. When you arrive at your destination, take advantage of military lodging. They usually have a better deal than can typically be found elsewhere.

If you haven't checked into travel and discount opportunities, you're missing a great benefit. I recently returned from Disney World in Orlando, Fla., with my family staying at a Department of Defense resort where we saved a lot of money and experienced world-class service. How about staying at Rocky Mountain Blue resort at nearby Keystone? There is even an Armed Forces Vacation Club that gets you condos all over the world for a little more than \$300 a week that we, as Reserve members, can enjoy the full benefit.

I'm sure many Airmen don't think twice about all the benefits afforded them. It's important to explore the possibilities. They can positively affect many aspects of your life, from family to health to finances. Take time to educate yourself on what is available to you. It may take a little research on your part, and we'll help you get a handle on many of them in this edition of the *Front Range Flyer*. The benefit package you receive in the military is unlike anything you could partake in the private world, but the sacrifices made by Airmen are unlike anything outside the military.

No texting while driving

In an executive order issued Oct. 1, President Barack Obama banned federal employees from text messaging while behind the wheel on government business. "With nearly 3 million civilian employees, the federal government can and should demonstrate leadership in reducing the dangers of text messaging while driving," President Obama said in the order. "A federal government-wide prohibition on the use of text messaging while driving on official business or while using government-supplied equipment will help save lives, reduce injuries and set an example for state and local governments, private employers and individual drivers."

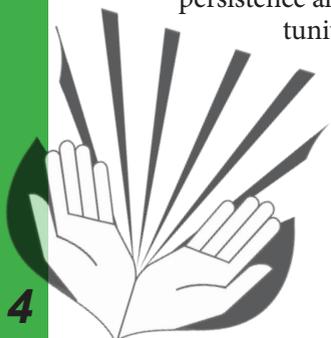


Scholarship for children

The 2010 Scholarships for Military Children program, sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency, is now accepting applications. A minimum of one, \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. More than one scholarship per commissary may be available based on response and funding. The scholarship provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other related expenses. Children of Reservists through age 23 are eligible for the scholarship opportunity. The program is funded through manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries worldwide. For more information on the scholarship, visit the Web site www.militaryscholar.org.

Chaplain's Corner

Batter's up – it's a new year! It's not about the past; it's about tomorrow! You never can tell what's going to happen. Let's take the 1954 opening day game between the Milwaukee Braves (before they ended up in Atlanta) against the Cincinnati Reds. There were lots of expectations for two rookies making their major league debut. That day, the Reds pulled out the win, 9-8. Jim Greengrass hit four doubles; not a bad start for a rookie. The other newcomer, playing in left field, was not only on the losing team, but went 0 for 5 at bat. Ouch! But that's not the end of the story. Never forget the Biblical proverb, "The end of something is better than its beginning. Patience is better than conceit." (Ecclesiastes 7:8) Remember, it's not about the past failures - it's about diligent persistence and taking advantage of future opportunities. And that rookie on the losing team? You probably know him better as Hank Aaron. So with a new year upon us, step up to the plate and give it your best shot. See where it takes you; you never can tell!



For spiritual services, the 302nd AW chaplain's office can be reached at (719) 556-4006

Have you been 'fleeced?'

As part of decisions made by the 98th Virtual Uniform Board on uniform matters in the Air Force and the Peterson Air Force Base commander, new guidance has been given on how to wear both the pullover green and black fleeces.



The green Air Force fleece can be worn as a liner with the APECS jacket, but only the Army version of the green fleece can be worn by itself. The fleece should include a Velcro ABU name and U.S. Air Force tape affixed to the front (as seen above). The member's rank should also be flushed and center above the name tape. The requirement to have nametapes and rank visible goes into effect Oct. 1, 2010. Other items approved to be worn with the fleece on Peterson include black or sage green leather, suede or knit gloves, black or sage green knit watch caps, black scarves that are tucked in and black earmuffs.

PME classes available

Several slots for multiple professional military education courses are now available for Reservists. As of Nov. 25, 82 slots were available for Airman Leadership School, Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy and the Chief's Leadership Course. Airmen interested in signing up for a course should consult their squadron training manager to ensure they are qualified. For more information on the courses overall, call the 302nd Airlift Wing training office's Marie Encinias at (719) 556-7170.

THE BOTTOMLINE

Your Senior Recruiter

Questions about a position in the wing? Interested in a new career field? Have a friend who wants to join the 302nd Airlift Wing?

Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Meyer can help!

Call the local senior Air Force Reserve recruiter at (719) 556-0151 for answers to your questions!



Gets news and info online at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

With the Air Force re-focusing its commitment to military families and the introduction of the Year of the Air Force Family initiative, we thought we'd come up with

5 Questions for

by Staff Sgt. Stephen Collier
Front Range Flyer

Mrs. Elizabeth Jones

(Editor's note: Mrs. Elizabeth Jones recently took on the position of the 302nd Airlift Wing's Key Spouse Program coordinator. The Key Spouse Program supports family members of Reservists with a variety of programs and networks.)

It's a big challenge to take on, but Elizabeth Jones has no other intention but to succeed. The wife of Col. Kurt Jones, 302nd Operations Group commander, is determined to take on a mission critical to the 302nd AW: families. After recently moving to Colorado when her husband took command, Mrs. Jones knows all too well the trials of packing up and moving cross-country.

The *Front Range Flyer* recently sat down with Mrs. Jones, who now takes on the important role as program coordinator for the Key Spouse Program. Known as 'KSP,' the program acts as a beacon of support for 302nd AW families whether they're in need of deployed support or just a friendly person to talk to. The *Front Range Flyer* wanted to take a closer look at what families could expect with Mrs. Jones' direction:

FRONT RANGE FLYER: Please give us an introduction of who you are and what you're representing.

ELIZABETH JONES: I'm Elizabeth Jones and my husband is Kurt Jones. I am the 302nd Airlift Wing Key Spouse Program coordinator. Together, Kurt and I have five kids and four grand kids.

FRF: What support programs at Peterson do you see being of great help to Reserve families?

EJ: Some people are independent; they are happy, they're just in their family unit. Other people don't know where to go or who to ask a question to. I hope that we can be a



point of contact for them of where they can get answers to their questions. Like, the base now has six counselors that are available to talk about anything too. It's not reported, it can't go on the record and it can't hurt you. I recently talked to a wife of an Airman the other day and she went and used our counselors on base. Family support on base also has financial counseling where you can get financial help before you get into a crisis. I meet people all the time that are in some sort of financial crisis or their house is going to be foreclosed on or they're really suffering because they've moved to a new base and they can't find a job. Our family support has a way to help you find a job in this area. The Key Spouse Program is here to help you find the answers to questions, we're here to be a point of contact and we're here to be a familiar face. And we're here to have fun!

FRF: Why do you believe the Key Spouse Program is such an important topic for the wing?

EJ: I think it's very important to have fun with a family at an assignment. If your family isn't having fun, it is going to be more difficult for the service member to do their job. If kids are having problems with school, if they are not getting connected, if they're not making friends – if the spouse is feeling trapped at home or not meeting anyone and is lonely we need to help find the right resource to assist that family.

The conversation continues online
at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

THE BOTTOMLINE *on-line*

Learn more about the Key Spouse Program and Mrs. Jones' take on:

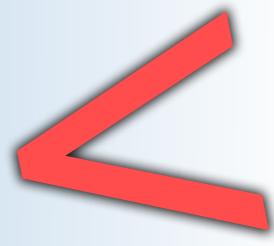
- > On-base counselors
- > Military divorces
- > Financial support

For Key Spouse questions,
e-mail them to
302keyspouse@gmail.com





What's in it for you?



Military service offers many benefits you might not even know about

**By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
and
Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier**

After agreeing to a life-long commitment, whether it be a job, an educational goal or even the Air Force Reserve, have you ever asked yourself: **what's in it for me?**

Citizen Airmen, those volunteers that make up the Air Force Reserve, have raised their right hands time and time again in service to their country. And everyone has a different reason. From tuition assistance at their local college or university to the many travel opportunities afforded to members as part of their service, all Reservists deserve to "get something" out of their military commitment.

Fortunately, just by being an Air Force Reservist doors can open to many benefits some didn't even know were out there. And those benefits aren't in place for

the uniformed member alone; many benefits are available or were created specifically to support family members. In fact, some benefits are designed exclusively for the Reservist's loved ones. Benefits cannot make up for all the sacrifices Airmen have and continue to make in the name of defense, but they are there to help with common problems and concerns others have encountered in the past. It's important to know what's available.

Relieving the 'pressure'

The duties of Reserve life can create undo pressure on a Reservist's family life. Time away for training, deployments overseas and even annual tour requirements can make a difficult

THE BOTTOM

Dialing in your benefits

Learn more about the benefits you're

- > Airman and Family Readiness Center
- > 302nd Airlift Wing education office
- > The Wing's Military Personnel Flight
- > Military One Source // (800) 342-96

situation even tougher. The Air Force Reserve recognizes the added stress military service can bring to the family unit and has developed programs to help those in need. Many of these programs are intended to be used by non-servicemembers.

The Airman and Family Readiness Center is a one-stop resource and information center designed to assist servicemembers and their families with many of the challenges encountered while serving in the military. Their assistance, sometimes congressionally mandated, begins from the time a Reservist is headed to Peterson to when they depart the base. But where support becomes more crucial is when an Airman deploys. The Airman and Family Readiness Center, again, is ready to assist them and their loved ones.

"What we are trying to do with family readiness is help prepare the entire family for a deployment," said Master Sgt. Christina Fornander, a consultant with Airman and Family Readiness Center. "We take care of the family while they are deployed and assist them with the hardest phase of deployment: bringing that military member back and reintegrating them with the family."

But as greater challenges and demands are put upon servicemembers and their families, Family Readiness also evolves and grows to meet new needs.

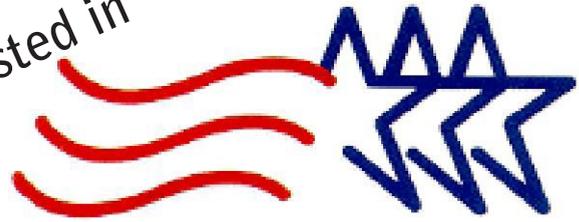
"We have a new program in the Reserve, known as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. It's designed to focus on all aspects of deployment and really try to mitigate the most obvious problem: the military member being separated from their family and how to make it a healthier situation for them in each phase," Sergeant Fornander said.

In addition to deployment assistance, the Airman and Family Readiness Center also offers dozens of other programs to assist Airmen, whether the member is single or married and with or without children. One of the most time-saving programs they offer is called "Information and Referral." This program helps Airmen or their family members find information about companies or services near them. "A lot of people don't realize they could just ask a question and be directed to three or four different agencies to help them find the solution they want," Sergeant Fornander said.

Healthy living

Other benefits afforded Air Force Reservists are put in place to keep them healthy and ready to deploy. Each year, Airmen must pass a physical examination to gauge their overall health. This is done free of charge and can save a trip to the doctor's office. Along with the medical physical, a free dental checkup is provided

Interested in



TRICARE?

Reservists interested in enrolling in the Department of Defense's sponsored TRICARE Reserve Select health care plan can learn more at www.tricare.mil

every third year to the military member, ensuring they have no dental issues that could become serious if not treated as well as to keep Airmen deployment ready. Medical records also ensure flu shots and immunizations are current and given in a timely manner and are also free of charge.

Reservists also have the opportunity to register for the Department of Defense-sponsored TRICARE Reserve Select, a premium-based health plan. Depending on a family members' enrollment and eligibility status, different programs are made available under the TRICARE plan. But oftentimes, the premiums tend to be less than a private insurance company would charge, according to the Web site www.tricare.mil.

Personal bennies

Many different recreational and travel opportunities are available to Reservists and their families, many times at discounted prices or even for free. Military lodges throughout the world offer discounted rates for members and their dependents. Information, tickets and tours at Peterson offer deals to amusement parks and sporting events once you arrive at your destination. Learn more about these at www.21fss.com.

There are also discounted ski passes available through Outdoor Recreation, allowing one to take advantage of Colorado's pristine winter activities at reduced cost. Reservists can also rent ski and snowboard accessories, as well as other outdoor equipment, through Outdoor Recreation. Reservists and their dependents also have access to shopping at the commissary and base exchange. Don't forget about a base's golf course and fitness center. Being an Air Force Reservist requires a lot of sacrifice. But it's important for military members to explore their benefits and take advantage of what's available to them.

Back-2-School

While Reservists are afforded the benefits of recreational and medical support from discounted fees to free access, one of the oldest

See **BENEFITS, 8**

ONLINE

fits

fits you're entitled to by calling:

ness Center // (719) 556-6141

tion office // (719) 556-7170

nnel Flight // (719) 556-7976

00) 342-9647

BENEFITS, from 7 and largest benefits to military members today is access to quality education at little to no cost.

Since the creation of the first major piece of educational legislation in 1948, the military has "doubled down" on highly-educated enlisted men and women as well as officers, setting the stage for a superior 21st-Century fighting force.

The most famous and well-known benefit is the Montgomery GI Bill, enacted after debates took place between President Franklin Roosevelt and the Senate. The bill's overwhelming support eventually led to more than 7 million World War II veterans earning a higher education or technical degree. Since then, the program has been revamped as the Department of Veterans' Affairs meets the needs of today's servicemembers.

In 2008, the largest overhaul of the GI Bill program took place. Known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, then-President George W. Bush signed into law the sweeping changes. Most notably, the Post-9/11 GI Bill pays 100 percent of tuition fees for a four year, undergraduate degree program to servicemembers who have served at least three years on Active Duty after Sept. 11, 2001. The Bill also pays up to \$1,000 of books and fees with the largest, singular benefit being the addition of a housing allowance set to E-5 with dependent rate. This can allow veterans to focus more on school and less on earning a living while pursuing their education. Also, benefits under the 9/11 GI Bill can be transferred to a Reservist's dependent, if the member qualifies. Learn more about transferring this benefit at http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/.

"Getting your degree benefits you because it shows you are motivated to advance," Marie Encinias, 302nd Airlift Wing education office specialist said. "With your military career, it can help you progress through higher ranks. Of course, with your civilian career, having a bachelor's or master's degree can get you better job."

While the GI Bill is a smart way for Reservists to advance their education, what happens if you don't qualify for any or all of what the GI Bill has the offer? Enter tuition assistance.

Ms. Encinias pointed out the most common educational benefits used by members of the 302nd AW was tuition assistance.

"Since 1997, when tuition

assistance was first introduced, the program has come a long way," she said. "Back then, the Air Force would only pay up to 75 percent of your costs and you didn't have a choice of school. But now, TA covers 100 percent of your tuition costs for an undergraduate or graduate degree program at the school of your choosing."

Members can sign up for tuition assistance through the education office. According to Ms. Encinias, the member will need to register with their school, apply for tuition assistance through the Air Force Portal, under the "Air Force Virtual Education Center." The Reservist will have to pay for the class or classes up front or ask for a deferral from their school. Once the member satisfactorily passes their class with a "C" or above grade average, they can drop their course transcript off at the education office for processing. Usually the member will be reimbursed in approximately two weeks.

While both the GI Bill and tuition assistance are great programs to help Reservists with their higher education, they cannot be used in conjunction of the same class. The member can use both forms of assistance to pay for separate courses.

What about the monies?

Of course, just being a Reservist in general also has some financial benefits. From an inexpensive life insurance policy to free financial planning, service in the Air Force Reserve can offer "perks" most private companies would be envious to provide their employees. How about help with writing your will? That can go for around \$400 in downtown Colorado Springs, according to the 21st Space Wing legal office. That fee not only includes the \$250 cost of the will, but the \$150 in legal fees just for a visitation.

But using Air Force legal resources can help in other areas. Are you about to deploy? Are you going on extended orders? Then maybe you might require a power of attorney to allow a loved one or friend to look after your finances or estate. Without the Reserve, that could run you at least \$50. Perhaps you need a medical power of attorney? Get ready to dig \$75 out of your pocket.

Looking after your well being doesn't stop at legal documents. What about if the unthinkable happened to you, whether in combat or driving home from work? Life insurance helps make up the gap of your income for your loved ones if you passed away or were killed. Through the VA, members can take advantage of the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance program. Members are primarily signed up for SGLI upon entering the Air Force, but can elect to change the level of their coverage or drop it entirely later on. According to the VA's Web site, www.insurance.va.gov, SGLI coverage is available in \$50,000 increments with a maximum amount of \$400,000. Members interested in learning more can contact the 302nd Mission Support Flight's personnel section at (719) 556-4673.

How about saving for your retirement? Maybe the Thrift Savings Plan is for you. Known simply as 'TSP,' the

THE BOTTOMLINE

Why you need a Community College of the Air Force degree:

NEEDED FOR PROMOTION TO SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS

GETS YOU TWO ACCREDITED ASSOCIATED DEGREES ONCE YOU'VE EARNED ONE FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE



Remaining deployment ready: Free dental visit for Reservists

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

Reservists have another dental option available to them. Under the Reserve Health Readiness Program's preventative dental care, Reservists can take advantage of a free dental exam and accompanying x-rays once a year.

The RHRP, formerly known as 'FEDS HEAL,' was designed to ensure health and dental standards for Reservists were maintained to meet necessary deployment requirements. The free dental option increases the chances a Reservist will be ready to meet their deployment requirement.

"RHRP is a last resort to fill the gap for those unable to afford a monthly premium," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Robert Heun, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron dental service assistance chief.

A Reservist can take advantage of the program by calling the RHRP administrator, Logistics Health Incorporated. After completing a short questionnaire to determine eligibility, LHI will schedule a dental exam with a dentist within 50 miles of the Reservist's home or work place. The dentist will provide LHI the necessary information, which is then passed to the ASTS dental section and filed in the member's medical records.

"The exam is the same as what a Reservist would receive from an ASTS dentist during a physical," said Master Sgt. Patricia Davis-Moore, 302nd ASTS Dental Section non-commissioned officer in charge. "The member will receive an exam and x-rays, any other work needed is the member's responsibility."

If additional dental work is needed, the member has the option to choose the Department of Defense's sponsored TRICARE Dental Program. Members interested in more information on the Program can visit their Web site at www.tricare.mil.

The consequences to members not meeting the dental requirements are significant as they will be placed in a Class 4 category.

"Class 4 category profile isn't good. That basically means a member has a non-existent dental record or overdue dental exam," said Colonel Heun. "Failure to have a current dental exam gives you an incomplete physical and initiates the no pay, no points policy."

To prevent an overage of Airmen from entering the Class 4 status, Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, mandated all AFRC wings to keep dental Class 4 statistics under 10 percent of their assigned personnel.

"We're still above the 10-percent threshold," said Colonel Heun. "If people don't act on it soon, they'll be subjected to no pay and no points."

In the past, dental problems have precluded some Reservists from being deployed and forced others to be discharged upon return from overseas duty assignments.

Last year, the Senate Armed Services Committee recognized the problem and proposed two changes to dental needs of military Reservists, revamping the dental plan to eliminate such occurrences from happening.

One proposed change asked for dental co-payments to be waived under the criteria of national crisis while another alteration to the RHRP program was to provide free dental care for Reserve members scheduled for deployment.

The result is an updated program helping Reservists meet their dental deployment requirements.

For more information on the RHRP Dental Plan or to locate the nearest primary care provider, call (800) 666-2833.

Thrift Savings Plan was enacted by Congress in 1986 as part of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act with additional legislation passed in 2000 that opened the program to members of the military. Under TSP, according to their Web site at www.tsp.gov, a member of the Reserve can contribute one to 100 percent of their basic pay to the program. But the member's annual total of tax-deferred contributions can't exceed \$16,500, the set amount for 2010 by the Internal Revenue Service. Members can also withdrawal their contributions before retirement, but they can expect to pay additional taxes and possible withdrawal fees.

With these different benefits, members should know how to properly organize them to maximize their retirement. The Airman and Family Readiness Center can help Reservists build a solid financial plan to best fit their financial goals with on-site accredited counselors. "Our counselors can sit down and conduct one-on-one assessments of how someone is doing [financially] and

provide education on things they may want to consider," Sergeant Fornander said. "The only thing we can't do is act like brokers; we can't tell people where to put their money, just educate them on the things they can do to improve their situation."

Members can easily take it for granted, but the Air Force Reserve compensates them for their service with a pay check commensurate of their rank and time in service. For all the duty a Reservist provides, a number of order types can be assigned to ensure the member is paid for the services they render. The Air Force Reserve knows the sacrifices all Airmen make in the name of national defense, and it takes care of those who defend the country.

Being an Air Force Reservist requires a certain amount of sacrifice from the member, their family and, sometimes, their civilian employer. Reservists can take advantage of the many benefits afforded them for their service and should explore and take advantage of those benefits being offered.

New Active Duty squadron joins ranks with 302nd

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer staff

A second flying squadron joined the 302nd Airlift Wing Oct. 3, bringing approximately 180 aircrew and maintainers to Colorado by 2012.

The activation of the new C-130 Hercules squadron brings both the 302nd AW and the Active Duty 19th AW together under the Total Force Integration initiative. Known as TFI, the Integration is expected to increase the 302nd AW's already-busy flying schedule by an estimated 25 percent.

THE BOTTOMLINE

What you need to know about Active Duty joining the wing:

WHAT

Active Duty Airmen are associating with the 302nd Airlift Wing

WHEN

Right now. Since summer 2009, both Active Duty enlisted members and officers have begun integrating with maintenance and operations

Lt. Col. Carlos Ortiz took the reins of the re-activated 52nd Airlift Squadron during the day's events. The lieutenant colonel takes over a tactical airlift squadron that last saw action in September 1997 when it was inactivated at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. In late summer 2009, Active Duty Airmen began integrating with the 302nd AW, setting the stage for the activation.

Addressing a crowd of more than 400, Colonel Ortiz, a C-130 senior navigator and native of Pojoaque, N.M., said he looked forward to serving the men and women of both the 52nd AS and the 302nd AW.

"To the men and women of the 52nd Airlift Squadron; thank you for your amazing energy, leadership, creativity and effort in establishing the framework in what now will become the new 52nd Airlift Squadron as we work with the men and women of the 302nd Airlift Wing to create something much better than the sum of its parts," said Colonel Ortiz. "I look forward to serving you as we continue to build the 52nd into what I'm certain will become a model that others will want to emulate. Combat 'Roos are back in the fight!"

Col. David Kasberg, the ceremony's



Courtesy graphic

presiding officer and 19th Operations Group commander, based at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., stressed how uncommon, but important the ceremony was.

"Reactivations are a fairly rare occurrence in the military," Colonel Kasberg said. "They are a visible sign of an increase in capability which directly translates into increased support for the warfighter and to the war-fighting commanders and increased security at home. Here at Peterson, this directly translates into better utilization of the mighty venerable C-130 Hercules."

Colonel Kasberg said Colonel Ortiz is the right man for the challenge. "How do you ensure success? Simple; you find someone like Lieutenant Colonel Ortiz. The 52nd (Airlift Squadron) is in great hands."

Asked earlier this summer about what TFI will bring to the Air Force and national defense overall, Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander, said TFI is about "efficiencies."

"The Active Duty Airmen coming to Colorado will fly and maintain (302nd AW) C-130s right alongside our Reserve Airmen," he said. "The Air Force has a need to make more efficient use of aircraft available and the 302nd AW is part of that equation."

That equation leads to the wing's 12 assigned C-130H3s being maintained by both the AF Reserve and Active Duty Airmen working in blended teams and maintenance back shops. This teamwork is expected to increase the already busy seven-days a week flying schedule as the Active Duty aircrews take to the sky in the coming months.



By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

Lt. Col. Carlos Ortiz (right) takes hold of the recently-unsheathed 52nd Airlift Squadron guidon from Col. David Kasberg during an activation and assumption of command ceremony Oct. 3 here.

Gets news and info online at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

302nd Airlift Wing

WING MEMBERS TO BENEFIT FROM REVITALIZED HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL

By Maj. Kallece Quinn
Front Range Flyer staff



Five members of the 302nd Airlift Wing's Human Resources Development Council attended a two-day 22nd Air Force sponsored workshop Oct. 21-22 at McGuire AFB, N.J. The 22nd AF HRDC workshop was conducted to allow wing-level HRDCs to come together and share best practices on ways to positively influence the Air Force Reserve's most important resource: people.

"The workshop was filled with fired up people that want to do good things for our wings," according to Staff Sgt. Ulysses Garcia, a member of the 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron and workshop attendee.

The event was designed to be informative, educational, entertaining and inspirational to all ranks that attended. "The cross feed was fantastic," said Master Sgt. Rodney Hage, Air Force Reserve Command HRDC manager. "The interaction of the junior members could not have been better."

Other members of the 302nd AW that attended the workshop and who are HRDC members included: Col. Bob Chapman, 302nd AW vice commander, Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Westerlund, the wing's command chief, Lt. Col. Peter Weilbach, 302nd AW inspector general and Tech. Sgt. Christina Estrada, 302nd Operations Group intelligence section.

"We learned a lot, and good information was exchanged between the different wing-level HRDCs," said Sergeant Estrada. "Everyone was sharing ideas and best practices, little ways to improve our council, wing and community."

Following the HRDC charter, the 302nd AW's goal is to personally and professionally develop a diverse force that is highly skilled, motivated and enthusiastic. The HRDC also acts as a conduit for information flow between unit members, Individual Mobilization Augmentees and the wing commander.

"HRDC is an excellent tool in helping others; it could be someone in your community or a fellow Airman," said Sergeant Garcia. "Being a member of this council has empowered me and helped me be a positive impact on this wing."

According to the wing's HRDC charter, the council's focus areas are: Orientation and Assimilation, Career Development and Mentoring, Morale and Retention, Marketing and Relations and Community Outreach. The hope is by impacting the wing and community members in these five areas, it will help unit commanders create and maintain diversified personnel that meet our readiness requirements and reflects

the diversity of our community.

"Being a member of the wing's HRDC has allowed me to meet different types of people of all ranks that give me a different perspective of the Air Force," Sergeant Estrada said. "This group has facilitated a lot of peer mentorship allowing those that attend to hear from those of similar ranks, as well as senior ranking members that have a lot of knowledge to share."

The Air Force Reserve Command HRDC was initially developed in 1992 to review the diversity of AFRC senior leadership. The initiative soon developed into an effort to address issues impacting all aspects of the career progression of all AFRC personnel. Within four years, each wing was directed to form a local HRDC program to tackle "people" issues at the wing level.

"The HRDC programs at all levels directly and indirectly support the command's vision of creating 'unrivaled wingmen' through three main areas: people, readiness and employer and community support," said Colonel Chapman.

During 2009, the wing's HRDC has dedicated an immense effort to reorganizing and improving the council and its vision. "I think we are on the right track, have the right mix of people, focus areas and the leadership support to take

the next leap into action," Colonel Chapman said. "We are expecting to influence the wing positively in many areas."

The council continues to seek new members and Sergeant Estrada hopes other wing members will "take the time to see what it's all about. We are attempting to do great things for the wing and can always use more helping hands," she said.

Colonel Chapman summed up the program: "HRDC is a place where an Airman Basic can impact the life of a Colonel."

“
[The Human Resources Development Council] is a place where an Airman Basic can impact the life of a Colonel.
”

- Col. Bob Chapman
302nd Airlift Wing vice commander



302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
450 W. Hamilton Ave, Suite 171
Peterson AFB, CO 80914-2313

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX
ARIZONA
Permit No. 1662

For the Family of:



Photo courtesy/Matt Indent

TO 1C-130(K)H-1CL-1



NAME: Senior Airman Vernon Mullins
UNIT: 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron
JOB: Aerospace medical technician
HOMETOWN: Colorado Springs, Colo.

A Change 3

USAF USAF

TO 1C-130(K)H-1CL-1
FOREWORD

When did you enter the military? That would be July 2, 2007.

What's your civilian job? I'm an Emergency Medical Technician, but I also review medical records as a student hire at the unit.

How has joining the AF Reserve impacted your life? It's provided me opportunities to move forward with my career as well as to serve and become a part of the Air Force. Joining has also provided me the direction into the medical career field and to go on to physician assistant school, which is what I'm currently working on right now.

What type of hobbies do you have? Hiking, music, writing music and just service-oriented stuff. I also enjoy hanging out with family.

What's your favorite music and movie? My favorite music is probably alternative rock. And for my favorite movie -- let's say *Back to the Future*.

If you could tell someone on the street one thing about what you do, what would it be? I would say that as an Air Force Reservist we constantly make sure we're meeting the medical needs of the Air Force and that we're keeping everybody worldwide-qualified to deploy if our nation calls on them.

Will this year's fi



Need News? Visit us on the Web!

www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



Stationed Locally // Serv