

Re-live the past through the eyes of the *Flyer* ... See 5

Front Range Flyer

RAMPART RESERVIST

RAMPART RESERVIST

FRONT RANGE FLYER



FRONT RANGE FLYER

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally
Vol. 25, No. 4
Winter 2010

The Front Range Flyer

RAMPART RESERVIST

FRONT RANGE FLYER

FRONT RANGE FLYER



302nd Airlift Wing deploys to Kansas



302nd first to fly hurricane relief



901ST TAG TACTICAL AIRLIFT GROUP



302ND TAW TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING



Recruiters named Century Clubbers



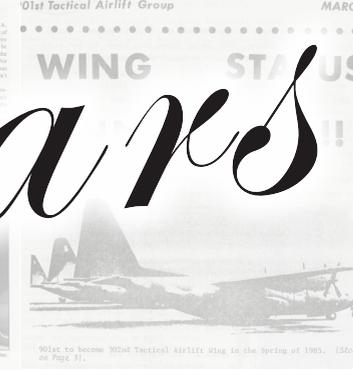
Our Time To Go



Plotting the course...see page 10



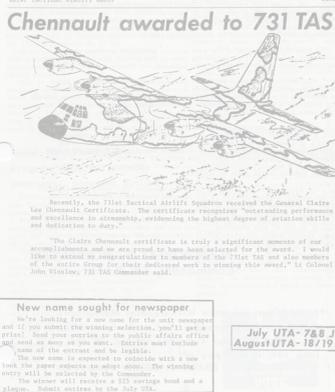
531, Where are you?



Wing aircrews join Army Guard in tactical display



Wing aircrews join Army Guard in tactical display



Chennault awarded to 731 TAS



302nd Airlift Wing



Wing's first C-130 H arrives for duty



302ND AIRLIFT WING U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND



302nd gets the nod; over 500 activated

25 years

The Front Range Flyer Front Range Flyer Front Range Flyer

Front Range Flyer reaches 'Silver' Anniversary

New name sought for newspaper

RAMPART RESERVIST

FRONT RANGE FLYER

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FRONT RANGE FLYER

901ST TAG TACTICAL AIRLIFT GROUP

302ND TAW TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

Wing aircrews join Army Guard in tactical display

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Wing aircrews join Army Guard in tactical display

FRONT & CENTER

\\ CENTER //

As this year draws to a close and I think about all we've accomplished during the last 12 months, I can't help but be extremely proud of the many outstanding achievements throughout this great Wing.

Each unit within the 302nd has made significant and important contributions to maintain our overall readiness and at the same time, each continues to provide vital support to our nation's defense. While each individual unit's mission is distinctly unique; attitude, professionalism and dedication is a common bond throughout the Wing.

A few examples of the Wing's many notable achievements from 2010 include support given to the Royal Thai air force's MAFFS training program and humanitarian relief missions to Haiti; the Wing's continued progress with the association of the Active Duty's 52nd Airlift Squadron; our ability to effectively prepare and deploy C-130's and personnel in support of overseas contingency operations; the higher headquarters' recognition of a number of our units to include 302nd Logistics Readiness and 302nd Maintenance Squadrons, as well as the numerous wing individuals who received Air Force Reserve Command-level recognition for excellence in their career fields



Col. Jay Pittman

302nd Airlift Wing commander

Again, these are only a few of the many successes we've achieved.

We hosted dozens of civic leaders and several distinguished visitors on tours of our facilities throughout 2010, sharing our mission and messages of Citizen Airmen providing superior global reach with those important and influential audiences. Our high operations tempo and great level of success is only possible because of what you bring to the mission and because of all you give -- your talents and your dedication to duty are key to our success. My thanks go out to you, to

your supportive families and also to your civilian employers who are critical to our ability to perform our mission.

The end of another year also brings the holiday season which is a time for celebration and relaxation with family and friends. Please keep safety in mind and remember to be a responsible and caring Wingman to those around you. This year, many of our 302nd AW members will be away from their families supporting deployments around the world. Please remember our military family and their loved ones who are unable to enjoy the holidays together at home.

May you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season and my best wishes to all in the new year!

FRONT RANGE FLYER

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LEARNING FROM SERGEANT GIUNTA



Col. Courtney Arnold

302nd Airlift Wing vice commander

On the night of Oct. 25, 2007, during a patrol in the mountains of Afghanistan, seven U.S. Army Soldiers were ambushed in a well-coordinated attack by Taliban fighters. On that night, the heroic actions of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta earned himself a place in history as the first living member since Vietnam to be awarded the Medal of Honor. In the space of what was estimated to be less than a minute, Sergeant Giunta pushed forward through the ambush, directed counter-fire on the insurgents, and in the face of intense enemy fire single-handedly saved a fellow Soldier from being captured.

In spite of being outnumbered and under extreme enemy fire, the Taliban insurgents were defeated.

When you think of a Medal of Honor recipient, do the words “mediocre” or “average” come to mind? Those aren’t the words I’d use. Yet, those are the exact

words the sergeant used to describe himself in numerous interviews leading up to his medal ceremony. Anyone familiar with his story would instead use words like “courageous” or “brave” to describe his actions.

But it is Sergeant Giunta who argues he was just “doing as he was trained,” and that he did exactly what any member of his squad would have done. I believe this trait of humility is the cornerstone of an effective organization; that the individual sees his or her actions as part of a larger process that will give their team or organization the best, possible chance at success. They don’t see themselves as the team; instead, they are a part of the team.

During the ambush, Sergeant Giunta charged directly into fire to link up with his separated squad leader. When asked why he did this, he said, “It’s better to shoot with a buddy than to

shoot alone.” By joining with his leader, Sergeant Giunta thought together they could give the team the best chance of survival. It’s the unconscious and unflinching decision to stick together for a common goal, no matter what, that keeps the organization strong and most able to be successful.

These two examples of humility and putting one’s team first shows us what it takes to build a successful organization. As members of the Armed Forces, we all have the great fortune to work with dedicated and focused patriots. All of you deserve great praise for your self-sacrifice and the service each of you performs for your country. I cannot think of a better way to praise all of you than to borrow the words of Sergeant Giunta when asked if he thought of himself as a hero, “If I’m a hero, every man that stands around me, every woman in the military, everyone who goes into the unknown is a hero...so if you think that’s a hero – as long as you include everyone with me.”

She has a new vision and way forward for the wing’s enlisted force. Get to know Chief Master Sgt. Suzette Cherry, the wing’s new command chief. More on 9



Does your employer go the extra mile for you? Whether it’s giving you time to serve in the Air Force Reserve, or providing you benefits during a deployment, don’t you think it’s about time to recognize them? Learn how to on 10



Senior Airman Danielle Dunagan might be the one preparing your lunch at the dining facility. Did you know some of that know how came directly from California’s Napa Valley? See 11

TURN THE PAGE >>

Enlisted workshop in March

The 302nd Airlift Wing Enlisted Development Workshop for ranks Airman through senior airman is scheduled to take place March 6-9 at the Peterson Air Force Base club. The workshop, hosted by the wing's Human Resources Development Council, will cover topics including career development and progression, handling personal finances, using the Air Force Portal, dress and appearance, customs and courtesies and the deserving airman commissioning program. As of Dec. 4, 150 slots were available for members to sign up. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact your unit first sergeant.

Legal brief

The following legal reminder on the use of slogans and taglines in e-mail comes from 302nd Airlift Wing legal office:

Have you seen slogans and taglines used in e-mails from your base clients? Many of these contain quotes from famous people or are maxims from motivational books and posters. Although they may be inspiring, their use in Air Force e-mail is contrary to regulation. Paragraph 3.7, AFI 33-119, Air Force Messaging, specifically prohibits use of slogans and quotes in Air Force electronic messages. The AFI's ban on slogans reflects the fact electronic messaging has replaced or supplemented formal Air Force communications like official memorandums, messages, and taskings. As observed by *The Tongue and Quill* at page 146, there are many ways to make social blunders and offend people when using e-mail. Slogans and taglines used in an official e-mail have the potential to be misinterpreted and, as a result, create an unfavorable impression of the sender and the service. Air Force guidance is clear, slogans and taglines should not be used in official e-mail traffic.

Chaplain's Corner

Santa Claus is a pretty popular person this time of year. Have you ever considered the amazing amount of faith that it takes to believe in that red-suited man?

There are, for instance, about 378 million children in the world who put their faith in Santa Claus. The Populations Reference Bureau estimates there are about two billion children in the world under the age of 18. Let's conservatively calculate that a mere 15 percent of them believe in Santa although the number may be higher.

Time-wise, Santa has about a 31-hour Christmas Eve delivery window to work within, making allowances for different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to

west. That is one big development.

Based on 3.5 children per household, generally one of the children or even half of them have been good. That means Santa would have to visit 967 homes per second. This means that in about one-one thousandth of a second he has to park the sleigh, secure the reindeer, slide down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute gifts under the tree, eat any snack left for him and zoom back up the chimney. Forget the big, black boots: Santa needs high performance running shoes.

For fun, let's assume that each of the 108 million stops is evenly spaced on an average of 0.78 of a mile between houses. This would mean he would need to navigate 75.5 million miles, not counting side trips to stop for coffee or a much needed bathroom break, to accomplish the mission in the allotted 31 hours. Santa must pilot his sleigh at around 650 miles per second or about 3,000 times the speed of sound.

Therein lies a significant problem: if Santa accelerated on his rooftop run-

Have issues with your
military or travel pay?

Call the 302nd Airlift Wing's
finance office

(719) 556-7718



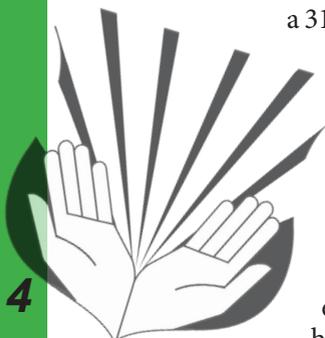
Education grants for spouses

The My Career Advancement Account, or 'MyCAA,' sponsors the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program. There are \$2,000 annual education grants available through MyCAA for eligible Reserve spouses. Spouses of activated Air Force Reservists who are between the paygrades of E-1 through E-5, or O-1 through O-2, can apply for the grant which can be used toward either an Associate's degree, credentials or licensure program. Spouses must finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course. MyCAA educational grants are limited to a \$4,000 maximum benefit, with a \$2,000 fiscal year cap. For more information on the military spouse educational grant, call the Peterson Airman and Family Readiness Center career focus program manager (719) 556-6141.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM YOUR FRONT RANGE FLYER STAFF!



FLYER, from 5 rotations, known as Operation Volant Partner, helped both operations and maintenance personnel hone their skills of tactical airlift in unknown surroundings.

But closer to home, a sobering event in September 1987 reminded Sergeant Carey and other aircrew members of just how serious it was to serve in a flying unit. Just two months later, Lt. Col. Lew Long, then the chief of safety for the 302nd TAW, penned a commentary for the November 1987 newsletter highlighting his involvement in an interim safety investigation exploring the crash of a B-1B bomber in La Junta, Colo. Sergeant Carey said he could still remember the conversations with Colonel Long.

"The B-1 was still relatively new and to have [a crash] happen with all the technology on it was unsettling, especially when in contrast to the 1960s-era C-130 "B" model aircraft we were flying," he remembered. "To have a new plane like that crash was unnerving. It ended up being a bird strike that brought it down. I flew an awful lot with (Colonel) Lew Long and he told us a story about a deputy sheriff who was cruising along the highway, watching the bomber go down and came across some of the aircrew who parachuted back to earth. The first thing the aircrew asked was about their buddies that went down in the B-1. I can remember subtle details like that."

The memories for Sergeant Carey were just as fresh for Tech. Sgt. Tanya Keller. Serving in the 901st TAG, and then later the 302nd AW since 1982, Sergeant Keller enlisted in the Air Force Reserve on March 18 in her hometown of Denver to serve in a new unit being reassigned to Colorado Springs. "When I enlisted, the recruiters told me there was going to be a new unit in Colorado Springs and that was part of the reason I picked the 901st (TAG) because that meant I could serve in Colorado instead of using the airlift to Missouri every UTA."

The airlift to Missouri took her only one time to the 901st TAG's original home of Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station outside Kansas City. Sergeant Keller chose the career field of aerospace ground equipment maintenance

because the job of being a mechanic was as far away from her hospital clerical duties as possible. But before she could get back to Colorado, she had to go east.

"I went to 'R-G' for one UTA where I processed, then out-processed the unit to attend basic training and tech school

because the 901st (TAG) was based there before their move to Colorado."

Upon her return from technical school, then-Airman 1st Class Asmussen arrived at Peterson to a small group of Air Reserve Technicians and civilians that were still setting up for a flying

unit that had no planes, facilities or support equipment yet. As one of the first traditional AF Reserve recruits to be assigned to Peterson exclusively for its new tactical airlift mission, she initially worked side-by-side with an ART commander, his civilian secretary,

a handful of maintenance branch chiefs and a first sergeant. During those first, few UTAs, she worked special projects for the first sergeant as well as setting up engine shop status boards for the eventual arrival of eight, 1960s-era C-130 "B" models.

After four years in the AGE career field,

Sergeant Keller left reserve duty for individual ready reserve status. But six months later, she would be beckoned back to the wing where she chose a new position as an AGE dispatcher in the maintenance operations center. That job and her current ART position in maintenance plans, scheduling and documentation are based in Hangar 210 adjacent to one of Peterson's newest facilities: Hangar 214.

"This was right around the time when I transitioned into the MOC," commented Sergeant Keller on the October 1987 edition of the *Front Range Flyer*. "I remember the new inspection hangar was built, but I remember more about how things were before this hangar came to be. Things like where the life support building is now which used to be in an empty field with a portable building for aircraft maintenance. The AGE hangar that I used to work out of was always here. I think it is one of the original buildings on the Peterson flight line. But the buildings don't stick in my mind as much as the people and the

activities we were doing. You try to go back in your mind and the most vivid memories for me are of the deployments and unique missions I participated in."

Looking back on past editions of the *Front Range Flyer*, Sergeant Keller reflected more and more on how the wing has evolved from that very small group. But for her, it will always be the people within both the 901st TAG and the 302nd AW that will stand out in her mind.

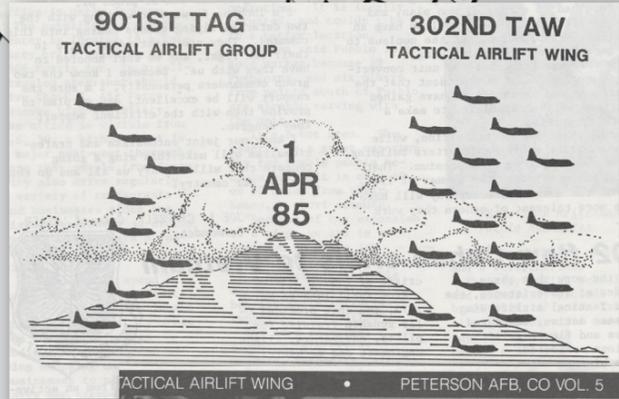
"The thing I loved about the Air Force Reserve was that it was a totally different world compared to my civilian job," she said. "I had the opportunity to interact with completely different people, travel and deploy doing different jobs with the unit. I've stayed all these years because the people have been another family to me. You develop these bonds and friendships and you feel a sense of ownership and belonging. Even though you

think you might want to do something different, a part of you still wants to be here. It's been quite an interesting journey to this point."

Front Range Flyer has covered every major story from wing activation to TFI



A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT // The March 1984 edition of the *Rampart Reservist*, the predecessor to the *Front Range Flyer*, highlighted the announcement by the Air Force of a new Reserve tactical airlift wing standing up in Colorado.



A WING IS BORN // This front cover of the June 1986 special edition of the *Rampart Reservist* encompassed the biggest change in standing up a new wing -- the addition of C-130s to the Peterson-based unit.



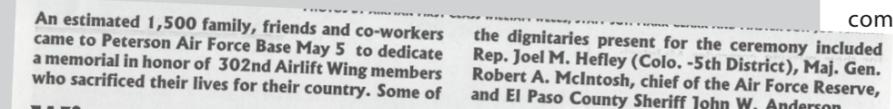
A FIRST // The 731st Airlift Squadron brought on the first, female crew member of the unit, Tech. Sgt. Sue Moretz, pictured here in the March 1990 edition of the newly-redesigned *Front Range Flyer*.



Wing's first C-130 H arrives for duty



302nd air cargo team deploys to Arabian Peninsula



By Master Sgt. Joe Vernier

The commitment, that the six aircrew members who died in the aircraft accident of Sumit 38 May 13, 1995, will never be forgotten was

to the gathering by Maj. Ted R. Wright, 302nd Operations Support Flight and event project officer. Respectfully, the crowd listened to the names: Lt. Col. control, parking assistance and immediate ground security. The 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron was responsible for placing the monument and model in the

REMEMBERING // On May 5, 1996, the wing formally unveiled a dedication to the six Sumit 38 C-130 aircrew members who perished after the aircraft crashed in Idaho.

FROM 'E' TO 'H' // The *Front Range Flyer* showcased in the November 1994 edition the arrival of the first C-130H3 model aircraft. The "H3" aircraft would later replace the wing's C-130Es.

Activated

Half of wing saddles up in support of Joint Forge

Tech Sgt. David D. Morton
Front Range Flyer

More than 600 reservists from the 302nd Airlift Wing were activated last month, resulting in many wing members spending their holidays overseas in support of Operation Joint Forge.

I was notified after I got off the plane. In a sense, the activation provided some relief. "We knew it was coming," said an activated major. "When you're associated with a good unit you expect it to happen. It could be disruptive, but we have a job we're trained to do." He received a phone call while at work, notifying him he was activated for a year. "My employer was extremely supportive. He



AFTER THE TOWERS FELL // Members of the wing activated shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. In the February 2001 edition, members waved goodbye to their loved ones as they set out to support Operation Joint Forge in Germany.

CAUTION: CHANGE AHEAD



TFI TAKES CENTER STAGE // After going quarterly, the Spring 2010 *Front Range Flyer* takes an in-depth look at the wing's active association partnership.

OFF TO IRAQ, THE FIRST TIME // Just nine months later, members of the 39th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron volunteered to support Operation Desert Shield as pictured in the December 1990 edition of the *Front Range Flyer*. The January 1991 edition would reveal a complete mobilization with more than 500 members deploying in support of Operation Desert Shield.

6 > FLAGS OF THE FLYER



Circa 1982 - February 1986



February 1986 - April 1988



May 1988 - January 1994



January 1994 - April 2001



May 2001 - December 2001



January 2002 - Spring 2009



Current

Still standing in line?

Get online with new Web-based travel voucher program

Story By Staff Sgt. Jenni L. Deylius
Front Range Flyer

Reservists now have a new way to file their travel vouchers with the simple click of a mouse.

The web-based system, known as 'eFinance,' offers Reservists a secure, paperless way to submit travel vouchers online. The system, which becomes mandatory for wing members at the beginning of 2011, provides a user friendly interface designed to help eliminate errors that might cause a travel voucher to be rejected and ultimately delay payment to the member's government travel card.

"It's similar to Turbo Tax's design in that it guides users through, step-by-step," said Mark Ellis, budget officer for the 302nd Airlift Wing's finance office.

Unlike the paper voucher, eFinance gives Reservists more control over their travel voucher, which helps expedite the process, Mr. Ellis said. One of those control features include Reservists receiving e-mail status updates as the travel voucher moves through the various stages of processing. If a problem is encountered during the approval

process, the voucher is electronically returned to the Reservist, enabling them to quickly resolve the error. Even with an error, the member can correct it and resubmit their travel voucher electronically which can be faster than filing it in the finance office.

Additional details on eFinance are available in a recently-created eFinance "how-to" guide. Members are encouraged to contact their supervisor or first sergeant for a guide.

In the system, Reservists can enter a home or civilian employer e-mail addresses into their profile, which can give members up-to-date information on the status of their voucher without having to access a government computer. eFinance can only be accessed from a computer with a "CAC" reader, so while the customer can receive updates from home, they will need access to a government system to make changes or corrections to their electronic voucher.

Col. Courtney Arnold, 302nd AW vice commander, said the new system was designed to be a bridge between traditional paper vouchers and the AF Reserve's plan to introduce a command



Graphic/Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier

GET PAID ONLINE FOR TRAVEL // Whether performing annual tour duty several states away, or traveling back and forth from Denver for a Unit Training Assembly, you are now required to file your voucher using eFinance.

version of the Defense Travel System.

"While there is no specific timeline for implementation of a Reserve 'DTS,' our wing commander, Col. Jay Pittman, has mandated the use of eFinance by Jan. 1, 2011 for all vouchers that can be submitted using the system," Colonel Arnold said. "Going to the eFinance system is expected to reduce errors and speed up the voucher submission and payment process, which is good for everyone in our wing."

Once the electronic form is completed, necessary documents such as receipts and a copy of the Reservist's orders, are scanned, digitally signed and routed to the Reservist's supervisor for approval. Once the voucher is approved, it's forwarded to the local Servicing Finance Office for review. For 302nd AW members, that means the voucher is sent to the 21st Comptroller Squadron. If Reservists don't have access to a scanner, documents can be faxed to eFinance.

With 21st CPTS approval, the voucher is then transferred to the Air Force Financial Services Center for processing and final payout.

"With the current [paper] system, if a voucher is filled out perfectly it can take a couple of weeks to receive payment. It can take even longer to receive payment if a voucher is returned because of errors," said Mr. Ellis. "With eFinance, people have received payment (in the 302nd AW) as quickly as five to seven business days."

Other electronic finance documents are available on eFinance, including change of legal residence, emergency pay and allowances, basic allowance for housing, basic allowance for subsistence, family separation allowance and advance pay forms.

The eFinance site can be reached at <https://efinanceworkspace.wpafb.af.mil>. For assistance, Reservists are encouraged to contact the 21st CPTS at (719) 556-4770, or by e-mail at 21cpts.fmfc@peterson.af.mil.

THE BOTTOMLINE

Using, accessing the 'eFinance' system

-  Have all travel voucher documents ready to scan, including a copy of your orders, amendments and receipts from travel
-  Visit <https://efinanceworkspace.wpafb.af.mil>
-  Create a profile for working within the eFinance system
-  Register either your home or work e-mail to receive instant, status updates
-  When submitting and uploading documents, select "21SW TENANTS"
-  Questions? Call (719) 556-4770 or e-mail 21cpts.fmfc@peterson.af.mil

With the wing supporting its third, major deployment since 9/11, an Operational Readiness Inspection just a little more than a year away and new challenges facing the Air Force Reserve, we thought we'd come up with

5 Questions for



Photo/Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier

Story By Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

(Editor's note: Chief Master Sgt. Suzette Cherry was appointed to the position of command chief Nov. 8, by Col. Jack H. Pittman, Jr., commander of the 302nd Airlift Wing.)

The *Front Range Flyer* recently sat down with Chief Cherry, who now fills the important role of the wing's command chief. As the most senior-enlisted Airman within the 302nd AW, the *Front Range Flyer* wanted to get a better idea of the woman behind the command chief "star" and where the wing's enlisted force is heading under her tenure:

FRONT RANGE FLYER: What does being the new command chief mean to you?

CHIEF CHERRY: It's a big responsibility and huge position of trust for the enlisted members, but even outside of enlisted members, taking care of our officers as well. It doesn't end with the enlisted members. As a peer, mentor, leader and sounding board, I'll have a lot of hats to wear. It's a [juggling act] we all go through on the traditional Reserve side. We all balance our family, our civilian job and the Reserve piece as well and the farther you move up in the food chain, the greater that balance becomes. Even I am trying to find that balance as I take on this position as well as a new civilian job, trying to give both 100 percent, along with my family. Figuring out how to "spread that peanut butter" is a challenge.

FRF: Did you ever think you'd make it this far?

CC: There was never a goal; I never set a goal to make it this far. When I was in aerial port, I sat in on a board with the command

chief and he asked me what my goals were. I don't remember the short term goals, but I do remember I told him my long-term goal was to wear his stripes one day. Because I was a staff sergeant then, he told me to slow down. Later, he came to my command chief promotion ceremony, gave me a big hug and told me "well, I guess you got 'em." I've never really plotted any moves in the Reserve, except for when my husband and I both left the 302nd AW and crossed over to space operations at the 310th SW. We both wanted to get into the space industry, and Colorado Springs is space's backyard. That was the only thought-out move in my career because it was more so for my life experience.

FRF: How would you describe your leadership style?

CC: Pretty black and white. I grew up in the aerial port with (former Command Chief Master Sgt.) Schueler and he made a comment to me once that he was proud of the way I had grown up and said that he was glad to see I could condemn or praise with equal vigor. That is kind of my leadership style. We're in the military and, for the most part, that's not a democracy – you

sign some of those rights away when you sign on the dotted line. We do things for a reason or people could get hurt or a mission could fail. So I'm happy to bend over backwards for people. I'll go the extra mile if they want it. If you don't want it, I'll help you find the door.

FRF: Where do you see our wing 12 months from now?

CC: I'd really like to see the 302nd become more involved on base and within the local community. My view from having been a wing member is we sit at the back of the base and do a good job of taking care of each other, but we don't do as a good of blending ourselves into the base and community. Our Top 3 is already talking about integrating with the Team Peterson Top 3. You can do more with more people. Instead of constantly spinning our wheels to bring the same people into the same projects, we have to ask ourselves if we can expand that and get more done with a bigger force behind us. I think we can.

FRF: What kind of advice do you have for the men and women of the wing?

CC: The Air Force we live in today is not the one I signed up for in 1986. Especially as an enlisted force, we're much more driven toward education, self improvement and reinventing one's self. When I came in, we typically had senior (non-commissioned officers) that had been in one career field their whole life, they didn't have any college underneath them, they did a great job as performers and that is how they made their way up the ranks. But now, that alone will not get you there. Education is going to be a huge driver; the CCAF is a big deal and can be a huge factor when deciding who may become a senior (master sergeant) or chief. We're pushing our enlisted force in that direction. For all of our members, I'd tell them to work hard, play hard and enjoy the ride while they're here. You won't find this kind of camaraderie outside the Air Force. Trust me, I've looked and it isn't there.

THE BOTTOMLINE

on-line



Get to know more about the chief and:

- > Why there's a book with "tea cups" on her night stand
- > Why only Alabama college teams make her list
- > How she feels about those who can't follow instructions

All of this and more at www.302aw.afrc.af.mil

Retired Command Chief Westerlund:

'Always have a plan'



Photo/Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier

by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield
Front Range Flyer

For Air Force Reserve Chief Master Sgt. Joseph R. Westerlund, the journey began more than 30 years ago, but in a different uniform. While wanting to join the Air Force right out of high school with his best friend, he learned there was an 18-month waiting list.

"To a high school senior 18 months is an eternity. We looked at each other and thought, we could both be dead in 18 months," said Chief Westerlund.

But not wanting to leave the recruiter's office without some kind of commitment, Chief Westerlund and his friend became Marines instead. And the chief spent his first four years of military service in a Marine Corps uniform.

But his goal of becoming an Airman never faded. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, he eventually found a home a few years later at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. But this time as an Air Force Reservist.

Chief Westerlund spent the next eight years at McChord AFB as a C-141 Starlifter maintainer until his civilian job moved

him to nearby Colorado Springs. Initially, Chief Westerlund was not "sold" on the C-130 Hercules, so he decided to commute back to McChord for Reserve duty. After working in maintenance there for years, the chief made the move to a first sergeant position with the 446th Civil Engineer Squadron at McChord.

"My first annual tour, in five or six months of getting my (first sergeant) diamond, we went over to Osan Air Base, South Korea, and my squadron commander at civil engineering fired me," said Chief Westerlund. "He said 'Joe, you do a great job as a first sergeant, but you are fired.' I thought it was over."

What actually happened is his squadron commander was setting up Chief Westerlund for a different position with the 302nd Airlift Wing so he could stop commuting and serve closer to home. Next, Chief Westerlund was selected by the 302nd Mission Support Flight commander, then-Lt. Col. Liz Anderson, to be the MSF first sergeant. The chief said Colonel Anderson was instrumental in his career progression.

"She said 'Joe, what do you want to be when you grow up?'" the chief recalled. "I told her 'Well, I'd really like to be a command chief someday.' So she took the time to write down a course of action to take to become a command chief."

Those actions eventually led Chief Westerlund to the position of command chief -- a position in which he believes he's excelled in.

On Nov. 7, the chief's career came to a long and storied close during his retirement ceremony in one of the wing's maintenance hangars. Before the chief's retirement order was read, in his remarks, Col. Jack H. Pittman, Jr., 302nd Airlift Wing commander, reflected on the time he and the chief had served together.

"For the last two years, you have been such a critical piece to my job," said the colonel. "You've been my partner, friend and mentor. To say goodbye to you is going to be tough. It really is going to be a challenge. You have been the most amazing fellow Airman to work with."

Now that Chief Westerlund's military career has ended, he is the one giving the advice these days.

"You have got to have a plan for your military career," the chief said. "You should have one for your civilian and family life as well."

And included in his plan was to always do what he could for his fellow Airmen.

"I wanted to get to the point where I could do more for more people. And I thought I could only do that as a command chief."

Employer awards recognize support to Reserve members

Citizen Airmen who support and defend the Constitution by wearing an Air Force uniform can only successfully balance their family, civilian employment and Reserve commitment with the support of their civilian employer. Sometimes, those employers may go above and beyond to support their military employee.

Air Force Reservists who want to thank their employer for this support

can recognize them by nominating that employer for one of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve employer recognition awards.

"Much has been discussed in the last few years about just how critical a role Guardsmen and Reservists play in national defense," said Patrick O'Flaherty, executive director for the Colorado ESGR. "What doesn't get as much attention is the role employers play. These awards are essential for recognizing employers because, in some cases, they don't necessarily get the recognition they deserve when it comes to the support they provide."

THE BOTTOMLINE

ESGR awards

ESGR offers four awards. They are:

- 1 The Patriot Award
- 2 The Above and Beyond Award
- 3 The Pro Patria Award
- 4 The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

'Armed'



Story By Staff Sgt. Jenni L. Deylius
Front Range Flyer

Some people know exactly what they want to be when they grow up. Others hope for an experience that will open a door to their path. The latter was the case for Senior Airman Danielle Dunagan, a member of the 302nd Force Support Squadron.

Airmen Dunagan was selected to attend the 4th Annual Hennessy Travelers Association Educational Foundation, Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence Sept. 18-26 at the Culinary Institute of America's Greystone campus in St. Helena, Calif.

She was among 25 of the top U.S. Armed Forces services specialists from the Air Force and Marine Corps to travel to Napa Valley where she received culinary training and mentoring from foodservice industry executives.

"[Growing up] I didn't really know what I wanted to do," said Airman Dunagan. "Having the chance to do this opened a door for me."

The servicemembers were selected by military and civilian experts as part of the U.S. Air Force's John L. Hennessy Awards program and Marine Corps Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Awards initiative.

"It is a prestigious award for a Reservist to attend. Not many Reservists get selected to attend. I am proud of her," said Airman Dunagan's supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Terry Brassard, the 302nd FSS sustainment services senior Air Reserve Technician.

The forum is designed as a reward for food operations excellence, but also as an opportunity to network with civilian foodservice executives who mentor and recruit future talent.

During her week at Greystone, Airman Dunagan received a customized culinary education, including hands-on classes and professional critique.

"I used to be very intimidated in the

with culinary excellence

Force Support Squadron Airman attends world-renowned California institute, learns cooking skills from top civilian executives

kitchen, but I learned a lot of cooking techniques at Greystone that I never learned in tech school."

Even at home, Airman Dunagan said she didn't feel confident in her own kitchen, but she's taken her new-found culinary confidence home with her.

"Now I cook for myself instead of spending lots of money on eating out," she said. "And it tastes good!"

Her lessons were more than just braising and baking. One of the most important was teamwork – something invaluable to any workplace.

"A kitchen can be a very crazy place. There are a lot of people running around, and everyone has to work together," Airman Dunagan said.

The attendees also took part in roundtable discussions with leaders of both the restaurant and foodservice industries and

complete her Community College of the Air Force degree in Culinary Arts. While at the Institute, the Airman earned 50 credit hours that can be applied towards her academic ambitions.

Airman Dunagan said she felt inspired that many of the chefs and restaurateurs didn't always know they wanted to work in foodservice. Hearing how the culinary professionals decided on their career paths presented her with new insight into opportunities. At the end of the Q-and-A session many of the executives handed out business cards, offering help and guidance in the field of foodservice.

Airman Dunagan said the importance of food services is often overlooked, but it's "what keeps our men and women going."

We can't fight a war on an empty stomach. A hot meal is a morale booster."



Photo//Marcello Rodarte

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME // Senior Airman Danielle Dunagan (center, right) said her time at the Culinary Institute has "opened a door" for her future endeavors.

toured local vendors.

Airman Dunagan brought back many skills that she'll be able to share with her coworkers said Sergeant Brassard. The sergeant said Airman Dunagan has learned how precise cooking can be and that patience will help her be a better cook.

"Cooking is an art," he pointed out.

She plans to take what she's learned and

While her time at the Culinary Institute has opened new doors to her future, Airman Dunagan plans to take what she's learned and apply it to her desire to serve fellow servicemembers.

"I like my job – I like knowing that I'm sending someone off to do their job with a good meal," she said. "I like knowing that I'm helping them do their job."



AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
 CITIZEN AIRMAN
PROFILE

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NAME: Tech. Sgt. Gabriela
 Romero-Gaboriault
UNIT: 302nd Aeromedical Staging
 Squadron
JOB: Optometry Journeyman
HOMETOWN: Montebello, Calif.

FOREWORD

When and why did you enter the military? I joined the Army in 1992 because I wanted to experience something different. I joined the Air Force Reserve in 2002 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., because I didn't want to leave the military completely - I love being a part of the military family. I transferred to the 302nd [Airlift Wing] in 2007 when my husband received orders to Fort Carson.

What's your civilian job? I'm a homemaker. I have two dogs, Morgan and Zoe.

How has joining the military impacted your life? It's been a stepping stone in my life. It's made everything in my life possible. It has been a positive experience that's propelled me to what I want to be.

What type of hobbies do you have? I like running and sightseeing. I really like doing 'handy-man' work around the house.

What's your favorite music and movie? I like alternative rock and 1940's-style Spanish music. My favorite movie is Saving Private Ryan. It embodies everything I like about the military.

If you could tell someone on the street one thing about what you do, what would it be? I provide support to members locally and globally by helping them see. I help them with their vision.



Will this year's fi



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