

Medical Airmen aid mission of mercy in Malawi ... See 5



**FRONT RANGE
FLYER**
Stationed Locally // Serving Globally
Vol. 26, No. 2 Summer 2011



MAFFS

**Working on two fronts:
Supporting Texas fires during annual certification**

**Get ready for the 2012 ORI.
Find the info you need
to succeed here.
More on 3**

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

FRONT & CENTER

This year more than 300 members of the 302nd Airlift Wing have been, are or will be deployed. As Air Force Reservists working to balance civilian jobs, family commitments and the Reserve, deployments are significant life events. With the conversion from Reserve to active duty status, deployments also entitle the member and family members to a number of new benefits and may pose new challenges.

With that said, I want to make sure every member is aware of a program that is available to deployers whose deployments are 90 days or longer.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, or YRRP, is designed to assist Air Force Reserve families with issues of deployments, civilian reemployment and benefits.

I have personally taken part in recent YRRP events and I think they have a lot to offer everyone in a Reserve family. Experts from the Veterans Administration, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, financial management and family readiness have been on hand for these events and have helped our members learn more and get the most out of their hard-earned benefits. In addition to the benefits, the YRRP events provide an opportunity for Reserve families to relax and enjoy time away together.

Currently the Air Force Reserve Command is hosting pre and post-deployment events in major cities throughout the nation. Recent YRRP locations have included Phoenix, Dallas, New Orleans, and Seattle.

Reserve members who deploy for 90 consecutive days or more can attend both pre-deployment and post-deployment events. Once approved through your chain of command, you, your spouse and children can attend. For YRRP, the member is on funded orders and the spouse and children are on invitational travel orders allowing their travel (usually airfare) to be paid for by the Air Force Reserve. If you've deployed for 90 or more consecutive days, this too is a benefit you and your family have earned.

To learn more about YRRP, ask your first sergeant or the 302nd Airlift Wing's YRRP project officer Capt. Taya Gessner.

Finally, the Wing's Family Day will be Saturday, August 6. Please be sure to invite your family to enjoy a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon with you. The Family Day committee has been working hard to plan a fun event for all. I look forward to seeing you and your families there!



Col. Jay Pittman
302nd Airlift Wing commander

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Cover photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Harris,
1st Combat Camera Squadron

ARE YOU READY - ORI 2012

Our Wing's Operational Readiness Inspection is scheduled for October 2012. While that might seem like a long time away, it is right around the corner with only about 15 UTAs to go. The ORI is simply the culmination of more than two years of preparation with a series of training and exercises designed to continuously increase our proficiency.

An ORI is the Air Force's way to measure our wing's ability to deploy and conduct operations. This is what we do. This is why the AF Reserve exists. Despite our daily operations and continuous deployments, an ORI is the most important measure we have to show that we are capable of conducting operations in a deployed environment. If we can demonstrate our ability to do our jobs, sometimes in our chemical warfare suits, we will succeed.

We will take about 500 of our Reserve members to the inspection location while another 100 at home station will be in supporting roles, but every Reserve member may be called upon to "deploy" to the ORI and demonstrate their skills. I ask you to take advantage of every training opportunity. Every one of us needs to be properly trained at any moment, whether we are being inspected or not. This is what it means to be an Air Force Reserve member.

What do you need to know if you are going to the ORI? Other than knowing your job and your mission, there are a number of additional skills that we all need to be proficient in. See the right-hand side of this page for those skills.

Embrace the ORI. Not only is it our Wing's opportunity to demonstrate our abilities, it is your opportunity to demonstrate your outstanding professionalism, skill and attitude. We have an outstanding cadre of trainers and planners who have been working hard for over a year preparing us for our ORI. If you have already been involved, then keep up the effort and keep your head in the game. If this is the first you have heard of the ORI or if you don't know what to expect, just ask the question of a supervisor, your first shirt, superintendent, commander, or me. This is a team effort for the 302nd and our active duty partners in the 52nd Airlift Squadron. With your dedication and help, I have full confidence in our ability to succeed.



Col. Mike Burns

302nd Mission Support Group commander
and ORI Emergency Operations Center director

“An ORI is the most important measure we have to show that we are capable of conducting operations in a deployed environment.”

1. **Weapons Familiarization:** Knowing how to handle an M-16, knowing how to use a clearing barrel, or knowing how to clear a jammed weapon. Anyone at anytime might be handed an M-16 by an inspector and asked to demonstrate the ability to demonstrate these skills.
2. **Self-Aid and Buddy Care (SABC):** This is basic life support and limb-saving techniques to help wounded or injured personnel survive in medical emergencies until medical help is available. At any time, you might encounter a casualty and will be expected to demonstrate SABC skills. Whatever you do, please don't ignore a casualty and hope that someone else provides care.
3. **CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive):** This involves the proper wear of our chemical warfare suits and mask, and includes chemical warfare training, IED and UXO identification, contamination avoidance and decontamination procedures. This is probably the most important training you need to be proficient in. Not only must you have the ability to don your gear properly in a very short time frame, but you may be expected to perform your job, provide SABC, defend your position, and communicate clearly while wearing it. This is not easy, so this is training that we practice over and over.
4. **SALUTE reporting:** Size (of enemy force), Activity (of the enemy), Location (of the enemy), Unit (the type of military unit or their uniforms), Time (of observation), Equipment (that the enemy has). Any Airman might see something unusual; someone in an unfamiliar uniform, a suspicious package or activity or someone who looks out of place. If you see anything suspicious, remember your SALUTE report and communicate what you see to your Unit Control Center, a Security Forces member, or anyone who can get this information to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Tell someone!
5. **Know your Airman's Manual,** AFPAM 10-100, March 2009: At the ORI, you will be expected to carry this with you everywhere and reference it as needed. Everyone needs one and everyone needs to be familiar with it.
6. **Attitude:** This is probably the most important skill you need. Approach the exercises, training and the ORI with an energetic and positive attitude and you will do well. I can't emphasize this enough. Every inspector will tell you that a good attitude will carry a wing through an ORI and can make the difference between passing and failing.

Texas fires, annual training starts MAFFS record season

After spending almost three weeks helping battle wildfires in South and West Texas, members of the 302nd Airlift Wing headed home May 6 to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The Reservists began flying missions April 17 out of Dyess AFB, Texas, in two C-130s equipped with the modular airborne firefighting system. While deployed to support the firefighting effort, the aircraft and Reservists functioned as part of the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group. They were joined by members of the California Air National Guard's 146th AW flying their MAFFS-equipped aircraft.

Under the direction of the Joint Forces Air Component commander for Air Forces Northern at Tyndall AFB, Fla., the two units flew a total of 81 firefighting sorties, dropping 243,000 gallons of fire retardant.

"The men and women who make up the 302nd AEG are extremely proud of the support they provided to the ground crews' firefighting efforts," said Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AEG commander. "MAFFS enabled significant progress in suppressing the fires, allowing the citizens of Texas to begin recovery."

While the 302nd AW aircraft and people were in Texas performing actual firefighting missions, crews and support people were deployed to Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, from April 30 to May 6 to take part in U.S. Forest Service's annual MAFFS recertification training. They were joined by aircraft and members of the North Carolina ANG's 145th AW and the Wyoming ANG's 153rd AW.

Under normal circumstances, all eight of the 302nd AEG

MAFFS-equipped aircraft and the Airmen who fly and maintain them would attend the annual training together. Reservists involved in supporting the fire suppression operations in Texas will be recertified at a later date.

Each of the four MAFFS C-130 wings is required to have a approximately ten certified crews.

"We will continue to stay trained, equipped and ready to render support when tasked in the future," Colonel Pittman said.

This year, all MAFFS-equipped C-130s are using the MAFFS II system in certification training and actual firefighting missions. Different from the legacy MAFFS system, which was used from the early 1970s until 2009, MAFFS II is a self-contained aerial firefighting system that can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area one-quarter of a mile long by 60 feet wide. Once the load is discharged, a MAFFS unit can be refilled in less than 12 minutes.

Training for and flying actual MAFFS drop missions on wildland fires can be extremely challenging and dangerous. It requires all operators to be highly proficient.

"The Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard members who are trained to fly the MAFFS mission are our most experienced," Colonel Pittman said.

From Gowen Field, the aircraft's MAFFS systems were loaded with thousands of pounds of water, took off and then followed a lead aircraft across the Idaho plains and mountains to make their practice fire retardant drops. Civilian personnel from the Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Bureau of Land Management were part of and provided support to the annual recertification week training.

"The MAFFS partnership between land and natural resource management agencies and the military is very important because it provides a way to boost suppression efforts during periods of high wildfire activity," said the 302nd Airlift Wing's Lt. Col. David Condit, who is the director of the Air Force Reserve Command's aerial firefighting program and is the 302nd AEG deputy commander. *(Story from Capt. Corinna Jones/Tom Saunders 302nd AEG Public Affairs/Air Forces Northern Public Affairs)*

(Left) A C-130H Hercules from the 302nd Airlift Wing, equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System drops a line of fire retardant in west Texas, April 27. MAFFS is capable of dispensing 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in under five seconds. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Eric Harris)



Wing dental team supports Malawi medical mission

by Capt. Jody Ritchie
302nd Airlift Wing

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – When was the last time you looked forward to visiting your dentist? Imagine walking nine miles to stand in line hoping to see a dentist who will pull your tooth using minimal anesthetic.

This is life in rural Malawi, Africa.

Every year, a team of Air Force Reserve dental specialists joins forces with health professionals from the Army National Guard and Reserve to provide medical service to an African nation in an exercise called MEDREACH. For MEDREACH 11, the team visited Malawi, a country of 15 million people with only 10 licensed dentists.

The objective of MEDREACH 11 is to enhance the readiness of both Malawi and United States military forces medical personnel and increase understanding of the medical capabilities and proficiencies of both forces, enhancing their ability to operate together.

Col. Sheldon “Shel” Omi, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander and a practicing civilian dentist, commanded a team of six Air Force Reservists including Senior Airman Jennifer Sanchez, 302nd ASTS dental technician, during the exercise.

The team spent two weeks visiting rural areas of Malawi and extracting teeth without the luxury of basics such as electrical equipment or separate rooms to work on the patients.

Of the clinics visited, only one had electrical power allowing the team to provide a handful of fillings and a few cleanings. Otherwise, the Reservists worked with equipment that didn’t require electricity. “We had a generator to provide electricity to the dental sterilizer we had should we need it,” said Colonel Omi.

Although the working conditions were not ideal, the people of Malawi showed up in overwhelming numbers for dental care. When the team arrived at a clinic in the morning the lines of patients were long and some had to be turned away in the afternoon.

According to Colonel Omi, the team planned to see 50 patients per day. However, they averaged more than 130 patients at each clinic, extracting 555 teeth.

“It was very hard to turn people away, but we started running out of supplies,” he said.



LILONGWE, Malawi - Col. Sheldon “Shel” Omi, dental officer in charge of MEDREACH 11 and commander of the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., performs a dental procedure on a Malawian patient May 6, 2011. (Courtesy photo)

With the lack of modern facilities, complaints from patients might be expected, but the opposite was true.

“The people were so nice and thankful; and brave,” said Airman Sanchez. “They wouldn’t flinch when we gave them a shot, sometimes we practically had them in a headlock pulling a tooth, and they never complained.”

Airman Sanchez, a dental assistant in her civilian job, took advantage of a unique opportunity to assist a team of Army ophthalmologists with cataract removal surgeries.

“I figured when will I ever have the chance to do this?” Airman Sanchez said. “Being there when they take the bandages off and can see is a very rewarding experience.” Team members agreed that personal satisfaction is what made the trip memorable. This is not a new concept to Colonel Omi, who regularly volunteers his dental services to serve low-income families in Denver and he felt fortunate to be on the MEDREACH team.

“Being able to see some happy faces and appreciative people was very rewarding,” he said.

Such satisfaction does not come easy though. The team worked long hours and gave as much as they could. Airman Sanchez even left behind some personal items such as mosquito repellent and flashlights she’d brought on the trip.

“Even the Malawi Defense Force was impressed with how much we [the U.S. military] wanted to help their people,” added Colonel Omi.

“To my Air Force friends out there, keep your eyes and ears open for these opportunities, they are out there and worth it,” he said.

AROUND THE WING

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AROUND THE WING



Tech. Sgt. Ronald Brown, an air transportation craftsman with the Air Force Reserve's 39th Aerial Port Squadron, hugs his daughter Emma, May 10 after the conclusion of a five-month deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Sergeant Brown returned to awaiting family and friends at the Colorado Springs Airport along with about two dozen members of the 39th APS. While deployed the Airmen provided passenger and cargo processing support in Southwest Asia. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ann Skarban)



Twenty four civilian employers of 302nd Airlift Wing Air Force Reservists visited Peterson Air Force Base on June 3 to learn more about the Wing's mission and to experience "a day in the life of a Reservist." Employers took part in briefings, a mock mobility line and a C-130 orientation flight as part of this year's Employer Appreciation Day. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Jody Ritchie)



Col. Jay Pittman, (right) commander of the 302nd Airlift Wing 'coins' and congratulates the crash recovery team members of the 302nd Maintenance Squadron during the unit's June UTA Commander's Call. The team was recognized for their repair work on a California Air National Guard C-130 that made an emergency landing April 17 at Peterson Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Capt. Corinna Jones)



Maj. Damon Brown (right) accepts the 302nd Communications Flight guidon from Col. Mike Burns, 302nd Mission Support Group commander during the flight's change of command ceremony during the June UTA. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield)



Lt. Col. Patrick Schlichenmeyer (right) salutes Col. David Kasberg, 19th Operations Group commander, before accepting command of the 52nd Airlift Squadron during a change of command ceremony May 14 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. This was the squadron's first change of command ceremony since its reactivation and association with the 302nd Airlift Wing in 2009. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ann Skarban)

302ND AIRLIFT WING

AF Blues on Monday

Airmen are required to wear a combination of the blues uniform on Mondays. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz said wearing blues is part of the Air Force image, culture and professionalism. The policy is mandatory for most career fields, with installation commanders retaining the authority to adjust for mission requirements. Airmen of the 302nd Airlift Wing are required to adhere to blues on Monday. Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, blues were the primary duty uniform for most Airmen.

Enlisted Workshop

A 302nd Airlift Wing Enlisted Development Workshop will take place Oct. 2-5 at the Peterson Air Force Base combined club. Ranks Airman Basic through Senior Airman are invited to attend. Talk to your unit first sergeant if you have questions or to register.

Pre-separation briefings

Public Law states military personnel must receive a pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separation or retirement. The 302nd Airlift Wing has a responsibility to ensure you receive this briefing that explains your rights and benefits before leaving the military. Attending the briefing does not obligate you to separate or retire. This briefing is required prior to attending the Transition Assistance Program Workshop.

Uniform Policy and Changes

The latest uniform news, updates and policy changes can be found on the AFPC website at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dress/index.asp>

Enlisted Development Plan

A new application within vPC-GR regarding the Reserve Enlisted Development Plan (REDP) has been released. This application allows individuals to submit their Development Plan to be reviewed by a mentor and/or through their command channels to the Development Teams at HQ ARPC.

myPay goes mobile

To begin using myPay on a mobile device, authorized myPay customers must go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> on their smartphone or other mobile device's web browser. Once there, customers can log in to myPay using the same login identification and password they use on their computer.

Motorcycle safety

During the summer, Airmen should remain vigilant in taking safety precautions in all activities, and particularly on motorcycles. In a dual-signature memo to Airmen, the assistant secretary for installations, environment and logistics, Terry Yonkers, and the Air Force vice chief of staff, Gen. Philip Breedlove, stressed the special cautions riders must take on motorcycles, with specific attention to speed, reckless driving and alcohol use.

Free museum admission

Service members and their families can visit a wide array of museums for free from Memorial Day through Labor Day, courtesy of the second annual Blue Star Museums program. The program is available to the ID card holder military member and their immediate family members -- military ID holder and up to five immediate family members. Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members also are eligible. Visit <http://www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index2011.php#list> for a listing of museums.

Are you missing out?

Did you know that your spouse can receive free or generously discounted services while you are deployed or on temporary duty for 30 or more days? Oil changes, child care, minor house hold repairs and lawn maintenance are all services currently offered. All the service member spouse needs is a copy of the deployed member's orders. For more information, contact 21 Space Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center at (719) 556-6141. The 302nd Airlift Wing's Airman and Family Readiness Office is open UTAs.

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Photo courtesy/ Matt Indent



GET ONE NOW: Air Force Reserve Recruiters know Air Force Reservists are best when it comes to referring potential unit members for Reserve careers.

Master Sgt. Sean K. Watson, an Air Force Reserve Recruiter, encourages Reservists to check out the **Get1Now** referral program.

Reservists can earn prizes and concert tickets for their referrals and for referrals who become members.

Visit www.Get1Now.us or the Peterson Air Force Base Air Force Reserve Recruiting office in building 825 for more information.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Tech Sgt. Daniel Butterfield)