

More than MAFFS: Waldo Canyon Fire gets personal ... See 4

**FRONT RANGE
FLYER**

Stationed Locally // Serving Globally

Vol. 27, No. 3

Fall 2012

**Ten tips for ORI success ...
See 6**



**Food, Friends and
the Flightline ... check
out the Family Day fun!**

More on 10

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

FRONT & CENTER

\\ CENTER //

This is it. We are now just days away from the start of the ORI. We've been planning and preparing for this for quite some time. The ORE, which was held at the start of the June UTA, was a great opportunity for each of us to put our skills and preparations to the test in a deployed environment. The ORE demonstrated we are ready and exactly where we need to be in each phase of our deployment readiness.

While we were focused on our ORI preparations, the Waldo Canyon fire, in the foothills of Colorado Springs, affected and posed significant challenges for many unit members, our families and our community. For some, you and your families were evacuated from your homes and faced challenges like never before. For others, in your civilian job, you may have been part of the fire fighting or support efforts. The intensity of this event was unparalleled for the wing and its MAFFS mission. The Waldo Canyon fire marked the beginning of our Wing's support of the U.S. Forest Service's wildland fire fighting mission in 2012. As of early September, MAFFS has supported fires in 10 states.

This year's season started out, and continues to be, a MAFFS season unlike any other in the 40-year history of MAFFS. On July 1, we tragically lost four aircrew members from the 145th Airlift Wing, N.C. Air National Guard and the MAFFS 7 aircraft in a crash while they were supporting the White Draw fire near Edgemont, S.D. Our hearts go out to all who were affected by this accident. As of late August, we have significantly surpassed our MAFFS drop totals from the past nine years. It's been an extremely busy time for our MAFFS aircrews and aircraft maintainers.



Col. Jay Pittman

302nd Airlift Wing commander

It is now time for us to regain our ORI focus and get back to our readiness and deployment mindset. Please stay in communication with your unit leadership, ensure you know what is

expected of you, and continue to put forth the excellent efforts that you have shown throughout this process.

As a unit and as individuals, we have shown we are ready and capable to handle any and all challenges that arise. I am proud of each and every one of you, and I look forward to the outstanding achievements we will make as we soon deploy for our ORI.

An online Airman's Manual is located at <https://wbhill06p.hill.af.mil/AMT>



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ON THE COVER

Inspection ready

Capt. Brian Young, 302nd Security Forces Squadron commander, simulates guarding the perimeter during June's Operational Readiness Exercise at Volk Field, Wis.



Air Force Photo // Maj. Corinna Moylan



Air Force Photo // Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, shakes hands with Senior Airman Collin Smith of the 302nd Maintenance Squadron hydraulics shop during the general's visit to the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. During the Aug. 28 visit, Smith explained to Jackson how the 302nd Maintenance Squadron began using Time Compliance Technical Order 2098, a new carbon brake system that can perform 850 percent more landings than the previous system. It is expected to save the Air Force \$327 million when installations are complete.

Colorado AF Reserve wing shares mission, success stories with AFRC leaders

by Ann Skarban
Front Range Flyer

Leadership and members of the Air Force Reserve Command's 302nd Airlift Wing had an opportunity Aug. 28 to show AFRC Commander, Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, and AFRC Command Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen R. Buckner firsthand, its mission, facilities and people.

Before visiting several work areas, Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander briefed Jackson and Buckner on the status of the wing's manning, airlift mission, Total Force Integration initiative, deployments and upcoming key events, including the wing's Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for October. Lt. Col. Luke Thompson, 302nd AW chief of aerial fire fighting, presented Jackson and Buckner with a special Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission briefing detailing the record breaking MAFFS season the 302nd AW aircraft, aircrews and aircraft maintainers are currently supporting.

Leading off the AFRC leadership visit was a tour of the recently completed C-130 squadron operations facility, described by Pittman as the "centerpiece of the 302nd Airlift Wing's TFI campus." The facility is shared by the Air Force Reserve's 731st Airlift Squadron and the 302nd AW's Active Duty associate unit, the 52nd Airlift Squadron. Visits with Air Force Reserve Command recruiters and the 302nd Force Support Squadron allowed the distinguished visitors to see the wing's recruiting and retention pipeline which has been the source of

years of success in effective manning for the wing.

The visit to the 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron allowed aircraft maintainers to share Time Compliance Technical Order 2098, a new carbon brake system the 302nd Maintenance Squadron will install on the wing's C-130s that can perform 850 percent more landings than the previous system. It is expected to save the Air Force \$327 million when installations are complete.

On the Peterson flightline, Lt. Col. David Condit, 731st AS operations officer, shared with Jackson and Buckner the details of the portable MAFFS tanker base which was operational in late June in support of the Waldo Canyon fire response and was also capable of supporting all eight Department of Defense MAFFS C-130s.

A final stop in the wing's 39th Aerial Port Squadron allowed Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Sutton, superintendent of the aerial port squadron, to show the AFRC leaders how the aerial port facility can support dual functions as both an aerial port and as a MAFFS operations facility capable of allowing the U.S. Forest Service MAFFS dispatch center and a MAFFS command center to operate with view of airfield activity and with ample office space.

Summarizing the visit, Pittman said, "It was a great visit. I am proud of everyone in the wing and am pleased we had the opportunity to let our AFRC leadership see firsthand some of the unique missions and great successes we've recently achieved."

The Other Side of the Fire



Courtesy photo // Senior Airman Jason Williamson

A week after evacuating from his family's home, Air Force Reservist Senior Airman Jason Williamson documents the total destruction of his house located in northwest Colorado Springs, Colo. The Williamson family home was destroyed June 26 during the rapid growth of the Waldo Canyon fire. The wildfire destroyed nearly 350 homes in the Colorado Springs area.

Force Support Squadron member loses home to Mother Nature's fury

by Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

As Colorado's windswept Waldo Canyon fire flared up to historic proportions on June 26, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard aerial firefighting C-130s had been taking to the skies for more than 24 hours, helping to contain the growing menace.

Just yards from the C-130's fire retardant drops, residents of Colorado Springs' Mountain Shadows neighborhood watched as the fire crested the ridge south of Blodgett Peak. The powerful winds began to shift, and smoke, soot and ash were now blanketing the wooded community. The time to go had come, and local resident and Air Force Reservist Senior Airman Jason Williamson, whose Reserve unit's C-130s were part of the aerial firefighting response, was leaving his childhood home behind – forever.

Williamson, a food service specialist with the 302nd Airlift Wing's Force Support Squadron, together with his family, were a part of the more than 32,000 residents evacuated from the northwest side of Colorado Springs, Colo., during the Waldo Canyon fire. The fire, which began June 23, quickly overwhelmed a number of established lines of defense, and the Mountain Shadows community was quickly

engulfed by flames. It was a sight that Williamson remembers vividly.

"My mom and my cousin were watching TV for more information on the fire, so they had no clue the fire was picking up steam and moving down the ridge,"

he recalled. "My dad was outside watering some plants, when he saw the fire coming down [the ridge] and getting into the (Flying W) Ranch. That's when we received the reverse 911 call, but we had already made the decision to leave 15 minutes before. It happened so suddenly with the huge gusts of wind, (city officials) were working frantically to notify as many people as they could."

The Flying W Ranch, which was about 100 feet from Williamson's home, would become a casualty of the fire. It was a local, historical cattle ranch and tourism site since 1953.

With the reverse 911 notification on one of his parent's cell phones, Williamson and his family finished packing their two vehicles with as many family heirlooms and other important items as possible.

As they raced back and forth from the house to the vehicles, they were also helping their neighbors prepare for their own evacuations. Williamson recounted how he, his brother and cousin rang their neighbors' doorbells, passing along the message they were dreading: it was time to go.

"Our next door neighbors actually didn't know anything about (the growing fire)," he said. "After that, they started packing right away. Our neighbors really came together."

With the neighbors tended to, Williamson and his family left the neighborhood. They were now driving east, navigating their way through thick, dark smoke that had turned day

into night. As the 65 mph winds shifted in their direction, smoke and ash rained down, even getting into Williamson's eyes. As more residents heeded the mandatory evacuation call, the two-lane roads heading toward Interstate 25 were quickly backing up with more vehicles escaping the encroaching blaze.

Despite the chaos, Williamson said he and his family maintained a positive demeanor.

"We were pretty calm, because in the past we've gone through practice procedures for some different things when we were younger. For us, growing up we'd go through drills on little emergency procedures. I didn't want to stress out too much, because stressing about something you don't know is wasting a lot of energy."

Fighting fires on the home front

As the Williamson family faced the hardship of leaving their home behind, just miles away members of his AF Reserve unit at Peterson were fighting back. Aircrews and ground personnel had first launched and flown a number of aerial firefighting missions against the blaze since their first flights on June 25. As missions entered their second day, the Reservists dropped thousands of gallons of retardant, establishing lines of containment throughout the nearby hills, using two of the 302nd AW's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130s.

Together with two additional MAFFS-equipped C-130 Hercules from the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd AW, the four MAFFS aircraft made more than 20 drops along the canyon's ridgelines, helping to contain the fire with an estimated 52,000 gallons of retardant. But as the afternoon of June 26 wore on, MAFFS missions were abruptly halted as heavy winds shifted the fire's direction, creating dangerous flying conditions.

C-130 aircrews and maintenance personnel watched as the fire's smoke plumes grew to nearly 36,000 feet high. Emergency radio frequencies began to reveal the unthinkable: the fire had jumped not one, but two critical containment lines. The fire's rapid growth was beginning to destroy structures and was setting its sights on the U.S. Air Force Academy. As the fire's ferociousness grew, mandatory evacuations in northwest Colorado Springs were expanded from the Mountain Shadows area to include military housing on the Academy itself.

Describing the turn of events with the fire, AF Reservist Maj. Greg Berry said the Airmen looking west to the mountains were "all concerned."

"This [fire] is getting very personal and very close to home," Berry, the MAFFS mission commander and 302nd AW-assigned member said. "It's a whole new ball game and we want to do everything we can. People who are doing the mission are now being affected."

As fires lit up the night skies, weather conditions began to change. The next morning, MAFFS missions were requested by the U.S. Forest Service once more, and support to the Waldo Canyon Fire response resumed June 27. It wouldn't be until June 29 that the AF Reserve and ANG could account for a total of 50 MAFFS drop missions,

discharging 133,554 gallons of retardant against the Waldo Canyon Fire. A couple of days after that final flight against the fire landed at Peterson, Jason and his family were about to learn the fate of their home.

A family endures

The Williamson family had escaped the fire and was now living at Jason's grandmother's house. A week after Williamson and his family left their home, city officials started to update homeowners on the condition of their evacuated homes. Once firefighters and aerial firefighting aircraft contained the fire, the evacuation order was lifted, allowing the families to return to their homes – or their charred remains. Williamson and his brother drove back to their home on Linger Way to see firsthand the destruction the fire had unleashed on their childhood home.

"We prepared ourselves for the worst driving through our neighborhood," he said. "You have that feeling inside that before you see it that maybe it's not so bad. But once we saw it, we knew that it was definitely gone. The house had burned all the way down to the foundation. Even the beams inside the house were warped and melted. Nothing survived. Once that reality hit, other thoughts started racing in my head -- that I should have grabbed this and I should have grabbed that."

Even when faced with the task of ensuring his family got to safety, Williamson attributed some of his military training to his calm reaction to the crisis.

"The day we saw the fire over the ridge, I told my parents that there were things we really needed, like documentation and things that were hard to replace. I'm sure I learned these basics through military training."

Williamson's story was shared by many Colorado Springs residents who resided in the northwest corner of the city, located at the edge of the Rocky Mountain foothills. In all, nearly 350 homes throughout the area burned to the ground, including the two-story home on the cul-de-sac where the Williamson family lived. The Waldo Canyon Fire would become the costliest in Colorado history, totaling more than \$352 million.

Looking back, Williamson said his family never thought they would be faced with the prospect of fleeing their home. "It's still kind of hard to believe and think about. You go out to the property and it hits you: 'wow, it really did happen.'"

As for where the Williamsons will now call home, the future is still uncertain.

"We are still deciding whether to rebuild or move on," he said. "For my mom, I know it's hard for her to give out her address when someone asks for it ... she kind of breaks down a little bit. My dad, he doesn't really express emotion, but you can see it in his face. When everything is fine and I hear a siren or see a fire, it's easy to get a little bit of that post-traumatic stress where your heart sinks down a little bit. It's still kind of hard to believe and think about."

Editor's note: Ann Skarban, 302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs, also contributed to this story.

THE BOTTOMLINE

MAFFS By The Numbers:
For the 2012 season, as of
Sept. 3.

Drops: 950
Gallons: 2.2 million
States fought fires in:
California
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

COUNTDOWN TO ORI SUCCESS

Mandatory ORI preparation training for all ORI participants begins on Monday, Oct. 15. Participating members should expect to be released on the Oct. 28. Contact your unit for specific dates and times.

WWW.302AW.AFRC.AF.MJ

ORI EDITION

302ND AIRLIFT WING

6

10 WAYS TO 'DAZZLE' THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

BY MAJ. GEN. MARK ZAMZOW (FORMER AMC/IG)

1 COMPETENCE - KNOW YOUR JOB INSIDE AND OUT, AND PERFORM YOUR DUTIES TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY DESPITE THE INSPECTION SCENARIO OR THE INSPECTOR'S GLARE.

2 RESPONSIVENESS - SHOW A "SENSE OF URGENCY" DURING EVERY WAKING MOMENT; LEAN FORWARD IN THOSE STARTING BLOCKS AND REALISTICALLY PROPEL YOURSELF INTO EVERY ACTIVITY.

3 ATTITUDE - DISPLAY A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, RECOGNIZE THAT ENTHUSIASM IS CONTAGIOUS AND THAT PROBLEMS ALWAYS ARISE IN THE "FOG OF WAR" AND CAN BE OVERCOME.

4 READINESS - ENSURE YOUR PERSONAL BAGS ARE PACKED, MOBILITY REQUIREMENTS ARE CURRENT, THE PAPERWORK AND PROCESSES IN YOUR WORK SECTION ARE IN PERFECT ORDER AND YOU HAVE TRAINED EFFECTIVELY SO YOU CAN INFALLIBLY PERFORM YOUR DUTIES IN PEACE AND WAR.

5 AGGRESSIVENESS - REACT AUTHORITATIVELY WITH ABILITY TO SURVIVE AND OPERATE SKILLS IN ATTACK SCENARIOS AND WITH SELF-AID AND BUDDY CARE IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES. EFFECTIVELY CONTINUE MISSION ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES IN ALL FORCE PROTECTION CONDITION LEVELS AND TREAT INSPECTIONS AND EXERCISES AS THE REAL THING.

6 APPEARANCE - LOOK PEOPLE IN THE EYE, POP A SHARP SALUTE AND EXCEED THE STANDARDS FOR UNIFORM, BOOTS AND HAIR.

7 SAFETY - APPROACH DUTIES WITH A SAFETY-ORIENTED MINDSET, KNOW WHEN NOT TO PRESS FORWARD ON ACTIONS BECAUSE THEY'RE UNSAFE AND APPLY OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION.

8 LEADERSHIP - LEAD BY WORDS AND ACTIONS -- FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY -- BY MOTIVATING, COMMUNICATING AND SETTING A POSITIVE EXAMPLE.

9 FOLLOWERSHIP - FOLLOW TASKINGS AND ORDERS QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY, EMPLOY TEAM BUILDING SKILLS AND ALWAYS KEEP THE OBJECTIVE IN SIGHT.

10 PRIDE - VISIBLY EXUDE PRIDE IN YOURSELF, YOUR UNIT, YOUR MISSION AND YOUR BASE. KEEP LOOKING GOOD, FEELING GOOD, BEING A WINNER.

EVACUATION DISTANCES

IED	UXO
If the item is the size of:	If the diameter is:
a box – 500 feet	<5 inches – 300 feet
a car – 1000 feet	5 – 10 inches – 500 feet
a van or truck – 1500 feet	10-20 inches – 1000 feet
large vehicle – 2000 feet	>20 inches – 1500 feet

Note: During the ORI, personnel will observe 10 percent of the required distance due to limited size of the inspection area. For example, a UXO less than 5 inches in diameter would require a 30 foot evacuation. Unit personnel will state required (real world) distances to inspectors.

USAF STANDARDIZED ATTACK WARNING SIGNALS FOR CBRNE MEDIUM AND HIGH THREAT AREAS

ALARM CONDITION	IF YOU	THIS INDICATES	GENERAL ACTIONS
GREEN	HEAR: ALARM GREEN SEE: GREEN FLAG/ TRANSITION SIGN	ATTACK IS NOT PROBABLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOPP 0 OR AS DIRECTED ^{1,3} ▪ NORMAL WARTIME CONDITION ▪ RESUME OPERATIONS ▪ CONTINUE RECOVERY ACTIONS
YELLOW	HEAR: ALARM YELLOW SEE: YELLOW FLAG/ TRANSITION SIGN	ATTACK IS PROBABLE IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOPP 2 OR AS DIRECTED ¹ ▪ PROTECT AND COVER ASSETS ▪ GO TO PROTECTIVE SHELTER OR SEEK BEST PROTECTION WITH OVERHEAD COVER ²
RED	HEAR: ALARM RED SIREN: WAVERING TONE SEE: RED FLAG/ TRANSITION SIGN	ATTACK BY IN-DIRECT FIRE, AIR, OR MISSILE IS IMMINENT OR IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEEK IMMEDIATE PROTECTION WITH OVERHEAD COVER ^{2,3} ▪ MOPP 4 OR AS DIRECTED ¹ ▪ REPORT OBSERVED ATTACKS
	HEAR: GROUND ATTACK BUGLE: CALL-TO-ARMS SEE: RED FLAG/ TRANSITION SIGN	ATTACK BY GROUND FORCES IS IMMINENT OR IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TAKE IMMEDIATE COVER ^{2,3} ▪ MOPP 4 OR AS DIRECTED ¹ ▪ DEFEND SELF AND POSITION ▪ REPORT ACTIVITY
BLACK	HEAR: ALARM BLACK SIREN: STEADY TONE SEE: BLACK FLAG/ TRANSITION SIGN	ATTACK IS OVER AND CBRN CONTAMINATION AND/OR UXO HAZARDS ARE SUSPECTED OR PRESENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOPP 4 OR AS DIRECTED ^{1,3} ▪ PERFORM SELF-AID/BUDDY CARE ▪ REMAIN UNDER OVERHEAD COVER OR WITHIN SHELTER UNTIL DIRECTED OTHERWISE ⁴

Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP)

				
MOPP LEVEL 0	MOPP LEVEL 1	MOPP LEVEL 2	MOPP LEVEL 3	MOPP LEVEL 4
AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DONNING	WORN	WORN	WORN	WORN
INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (IPE) AND PERSONAL BODY ARMOR	OVERGARMENT, FIELD GEAR, AND PERSONAL BODY ARMOR	OVERGARMENT, OVERBOOTS, FIELD GEAR, AND PERSONAL BODY ARMOR	OVERGARMENT, PROTECTIVE MASK, OVERBOOTS, FIELD GEAR, AND PERSONAL BODY ARMOR	OVERGARMENT, PROTECTIVE MASK, GLOVES, OVERBOOTS, FIELD GEAR, AND PERSONAL BODY ARMOR

REPORTING AN ATTACK S-A-L-U-T-E

SIZE: the number of persons and vehicles seen or size of an object

ACTIVITY: Description of enemy activity (assaulting, fleeing, observing)

LOCATION: Where the enemy was sighted (grid coordinate, or reference point)

UNIT: Distinctive sign, symbols, or identification on people, vehicles, aircraft, or weapons (numbers, patches or clothing type)

TIME: Time activity is observed

EQUIPMENT: Equipment and vehicles associated with the activity



Air Force Photo // Tech. Sgt. Daniel Butterfield

With a snip of the ceremonial scissors, Air Force Reserve and Active Duty Airmen ushered in the opening of a new 'Total Force' C-130 operations facility July 17 at Peterson.

The new \$5.6 million facility is the next milestone in the 302nd Airlift Wing's integration with the Active Duty 52nd Airlift Squadron. The 12,500-square foot building will house functions of the 52nd AS and 731st AS under one roof. The two squadrons, as well as C-130 Hercules aircraft maintenance, merged under the Air Force's Total Force Integration program.

Known as 'TFI,' the integration allows Active Duty, Air National Guard and AF Reserve organizations to blend with one another, making more efficient use of facilities, personnel and aircraft. For the



Air Force Photo // Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier

Col. Jay Pittman (left), 302nd AW commander, together with Lt. Col. (ret.) Robert Stout, unveils the 'Sumit 38' memorial during a re-dedication ceremony Aug. 4 at Peterson AFB. Both men ushered in the re-dedication of the memorial which honors the six AF Reservists who perished during the crash of a C-130 Hercules on May 13, 1995. The memorial was moved from its previous location as part of the wing's expansion under the Total Force Initiative framework.

Construction complete:

New C-130 operations building becomes centerpiece of TFI campus

by Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd Airlift Wing commander, (left) and Col. Brian Robinson, 19th AW commander, cut through a ribbon July 17 during the ceremonial opening of building 890A. The building houses functions of both the 731st Airlift Squadron and the Active Duty 52nd AS.

52nd AS and 302nd AW, that means performing both training and real-world airlift and airdrop missions together, as well as matching maintenance personnel to maintain the wing's 12 tactical airlift aircraft.

Officiating the historic moment, leadership from both AF Reserve and Air Mobility Command took center stage to cut the awaiting ribbon. Grasping the scissors, Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander, and Col. Brian Robinson, 19th AW commander from Little Rock AFB, Ark., sliced through the ribbon, marking the official opening of the facility.

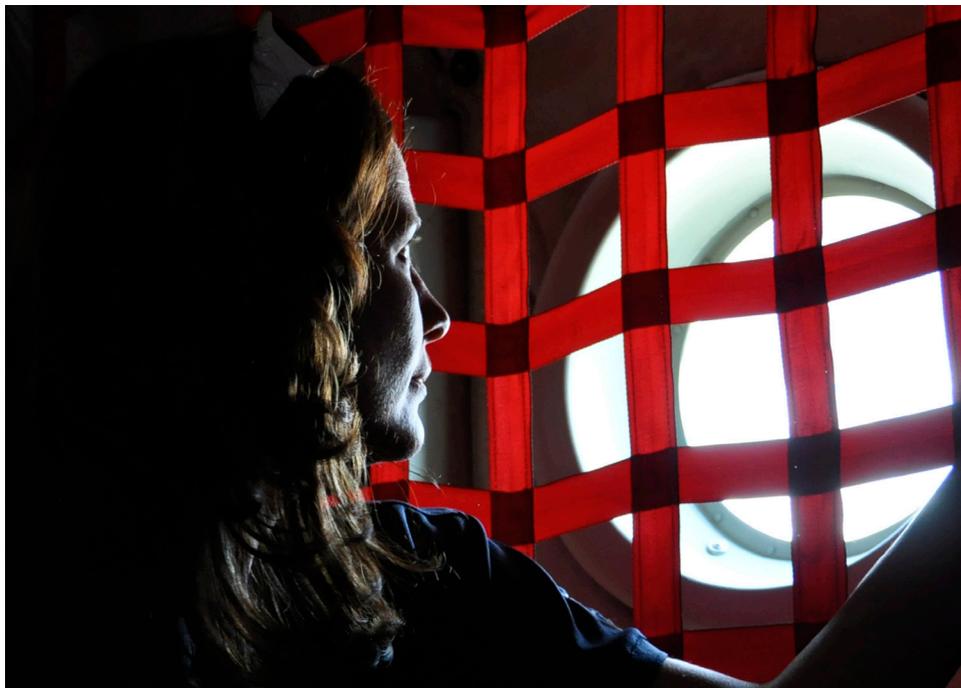
Just before the ribbon cutting, Pittman highlighted the significance of the day's event.

"We've been waiting over a year for this building to be finished. It's been worth the wait and this is a fabulous facility," Pittman said. "I love talking about this TFI; I believe in it and I'm passionate about it. From day one, the 302nd AW and the 52nd AS pulled together, and since then we've been through combat together and we've been inspected together. This building is really going to be the icing on the cake. We used to call this [area] the Reserve campus; this is now the TFI campus."

Pittman pointed out one of the highlights of the new facility is a 200-seat auditorium, something the Wing did not have before. The colonel said he was also excited to see continued improvements in the area, with a newly-landscaped courtyard, lighting and a partially-covered area.

The colonel also proudly proclaimed his vision for the new facility.

"This campus is going to be the showcase of the Air Force Reserve Command and the TFI community at large."



Jennifer Bunke, director of specialized member services for USAA, peers out the porthole of a 302nd Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules during an orientation flight July 13 over southern Colorado. Bunke, who employs Staff Sgt. Ryan Spawr from the 39th Aerial Port Squadron, was one of 26 employers who attended the wing's annual Employer Appreciation Day event.

Wing exposes civilian employers to AF Reserve, MAFFS missions

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier
Front Range Flyer

Since the call up of the 302nd Airlift Wing's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission on June 25, Air Force Reservists have answered the call to support the local Colorado Springs community and Rocky Mountain area in an effort to battle raging wildfires. As these members waved goodbye to their loved ones to report for duty, another element of their lives was also put in limbo: their civilian employer.

Traditional Reserve Airmen have the challenge of balancing three elements in their lives: family, military commitments and their civilian employment. To recognize the flexibility civilian employers provide their Air Force Reserve employees, the 302nd AW welcomed locally and nationally based employers July 13 to see the mission their employees support both here and abroad.

A total of 26 employers, ranging from the Colorado Springs Police Department to both American and Southwest Airlines, took advantage of the wing's annual Employer Appreciation Day. Throughout the day, examples of Air Force Reserve capability and readiness were put on display for the employers to see, such as chemical

warfare training, C-130 aerial firefighting and the 302nd AW's primary duty of tactical airlift.

Joel Kern, a sergeant with the Colorado Springs Police Department, said he now has a greater appreciation for the Reserve mission and the time commitment individual members give to it.

"I really took away [from my visit] the commitment and professionalism you guys have and the commitment to the mission and all the things that go into making the C-130s fly," said Kern, the civilian supervisor of Senior Master Sgt. Martin Herrera, who is assigned to the 302nd Force Support Squadron. "I live in Colorado Springs and see them fly around all the time on the weekends. You see them flying, but you don't realize all the effort that goes into keeping them in the air."

Employers were also treated to a lunch supplied by the Colorado Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense-affiliated organization that helps to mitigate challenges between employers and their Reserve or National Guard employee.

With recent headlines stretching from Colorado Springs to Europe highlighting the 302nd AW's involvement in

aerial firefighting support, the employers were anxious to experience a planned C-130 Hercules orientation flight. And experience it they did with a flight stretching between the Waldo Canyon fire area to Pikes Peak, then south to Colorado's famed Royal Gorge, and back to Peterson AFB.

Commenting on the importance of reaching out to employers of Reservists, Col. Jay Pittman, 302nd AW commander, said one of his top priorities is to ensure Reservists have a balanced approach to their life, keeping their "triad" of family, employers and military duty well-balanced.

"We all know the tremendous challenges placed on the military today affect more than just the individual members and their families," Pittman said. "For Reservists, these challenges stretch into their civilian employment as well. We want to ensure civilian employers are not forgotten when the country calls upon their employee to support the nation's defense."

At the end of the day, Pittman presented each employer with a traditional "challenge coin," signifying the respect of the military for the employer's support and, sometimes, sacrifice of having employees as Citizen Airmen.

Family Day FUN!

Photos // Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Collier



LEFT: Phillip and his sister, Aliya, get a kick out of the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's wireless headsets during the wing's Herc Adventure Tour portion of Family Day Aug. 4. The Herc Adventure Tour, designed with the children of wing members in mind, also featured C-130 flight crew survival gear on display, weapons from the 302nd Security Forces Squadron and access to a static C-130 Hercules.

UPPER LEFT: Tech. Sgt. Alan Kokes, 302nd Communications Flight, signals he's ready for more as his dunk tank seat gives way during the wing's 2012 Family Day event at Peterson's Eagle Park. Hundreds of wing members and their families enjoyed several activities during the annual event, including a Herc Adventure Tour, a display of military weaponry and a picnic lunch. This year's Family Day also featured a bungee trampoline and a C-130 Hercules simulator.

ABOVE: Lukas, 11, anxiously awaits his turn at "flying" a C-130 Hercules in a Lockheed Martin aircraft flight simulator during Family Day. Lukas is the son of Tech. Sgt. Brandilen Leary who is assigned to 302nd Maintenance Group.



Check out all the photo action from Family Day at
www.302aw.afrc.af.mil



FY 2013 UTA SCHEDULE OUT

302nd Airlift Wing leadership has approved the Unit Training Assembly dates for fiscal year 2013. Of note, the October UTA weekend is later in the month due to Operational Readiness Inspection. The UTA dates can be found on the 302nd AW's public website home page in the far-right column: www.302aw.afrc.af.mil. Please share this schedule with your civilian employers and family.

VETERAN'S WORK ACT

Congress passed, and the President has signed into law, the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 provides seamless transition for service members, expands education and training opportunities for veterans and provides tax credits for employers who hire veterans with service-connected disabilities. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP will provide training for programs of education that lead to a high demand occupation, as determined by the Department of Labor. VRAP applications are currently open. Please visit e-Benefits to apply. Information on VRAP is available by accessing the following link: <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE WEBSITE

The Air Force Legal Assistance website has online worksheets Airmen can fill out for powers of attorney and wills. The website can be found at: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil> or by entering "Air Force legal assistance" in a search engine. Once you fill out a form, you will receive a ticket number. The ticket number can be emailed to the 302nd Airlift Wing legal office at: sherri.libby@us.af.mil. They will then be able to retrieve your information to begin drafting the documents. Then, an appointment time can be set up with the legal office to review and sign the documents. This process improves wait times and in some cases, can avoid repeated visits to the legal office.

SPICE AND BATH SALTS

On July, the President signed legislation permanently placing 15 synthetic cannabinoids ("spice") and 11 synthetic cathinones ("bath salts") on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The Air Force has Spice testing capabilities that are presently available and is testing at least 2,500 samples per month. Recently, two teenagers died from using spice in Grand Forks, N.D.

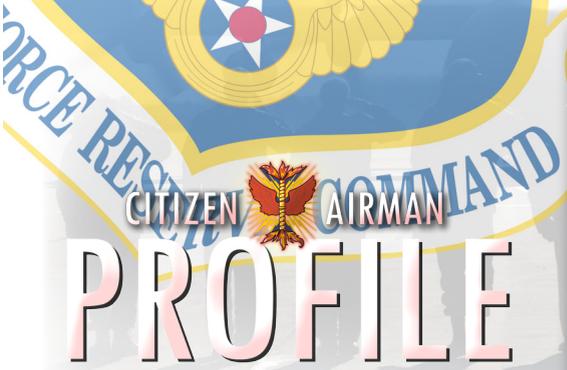
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302nd Airlift Wing

ORI SAFETY

by Maj. Ralph Fleming
302 Airlift Wing Safety Office

- **Nighttime operations** can be hazardous for the ill prepared. Obviously it will be darker during the night shift, but it will also be colder this time of year so plan to dress accordingly (hats and gloves). Make sure you have a flashlight (with extra batteries) available to use if necessary. Consider a headband flashlight to keep your hands free while performing your duties. Coordinate portable lighting for outside work areas where permanent lighting is inadequate or inoperative.
- **PPE ... PPE ... PPE!** If you don't know, PPE stands for personal protective equipment. You need to use it! On the flightline, make sure that you have and use the appropriate protection for the job you perform (i.e. hearing and eye protection for engines running onload/offload, earplugs for enplaning/deplaning passengers, etc...) If you work with your hands (i.e. material handling), wear your gloves.
- **Tripping hazards** are harder to spot when it's dark. We all need to make a deliberate effort to look for these in and around our work centers. Identify, mark (or remove if able), and report so that we are all aware of the hazards. AF Form 457 (Hazard Report) is available to identify issues to the host base if necessary.
- **Seatbelts, spotters, and speed limit**, the three "S's" of vehicle operations... If it has a seatbelt installed in it, you need to use it. Use a spotter for all backing operations, and any time there is a question of clearance. Heed the posted speed limit. There are lots of moving parts in the dark, so we need to be extra vigilant while operating vehicles.
- **Fatigue**, we're all going to feel it. Long hours in stressful conditions during the night shift are the perfect setup for fatigue. Supervisors, please keep an eye on work schedules. As individuals we can do our best to get quality rest while not on duty. Be a good wingman and help out if you see others exhibiting symptoms of fatigue (i.e. trouble concentrating or focusing). Stop the operation if you think it's unsafe!
- **Hydrate ... hydrate ... hydrate!** You'll hear that many more times during the inspection, but it's so important that I wanted to mention it here. Keep your canteens full and drink throughout the work shift (especially while in MOPP gear) to replace lost fluids. Drinking water while not at work is just as important. This will allow your body to catch up so that you don't start the next day partially dehydrated.
We're here to help so call us if you need us. If we all work together and pay attention, we'll do well and finish safely.



CITIZEN AIRMAN

PROFILE

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For the Family of:



Photo courtesy/Matt Indent

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



NAME: Col. Kathleen Flarity
UNIT: 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron
JOB: Commander

A Change 3

USAF USAF

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

FOREWORD

Col. Kathleen Flarity, commander of the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, was recently selected as Colorado's 2012 Nightingale Award recipient. The award is given to registered nurses who demonstrate substantial and enduring contributions to nursing through clinical expertise, leadership and community service. In her civilian employment, Flarity is an Advanced Practice Nurse/Emergency Clinical Nurse specialist with Memorial Health System, Colorado Springs, Colo. Flarity is one of 21,000 Registered Nurses in Colorado.

How did your Air Force deployments contribute to winning the award?

While deployed to Afghanistan as the commander, I managed the busiest hub, with more than 3,000 patients and 450 missions. In addition, I flew 44 combat sorties and cared for 120 patients in flight.

How do your civilian and military nursing and leadership skills complement each other?

The various skills are all interrelated. I am a leader regardless of what hat I am wearing and have devoted much energy to mentoring our future leaders both in military and civilian arenas.

What are today's challenges as a nursing leader in the Air Force Reserve?

A challenge as an Air Force Reserve nursing leader is doing more with less. I am continually amazed at the caliber of our members, the dedication and passion they bring to the wing.

302nd Airlift Wing

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