

## IMA honored as Outstanding Airman

By Rachel Bubba  
Staff writer

For the second time in three years, individual mobilization augmentees have proof that they are among the best in the U.S. Air Force.

SSgt. Omar Abed, an IMA at the 37th Security Forces Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, was selected as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen for 2003.

MSgt. Myrna Cornelison, an IMA at the 97th Intelligence Squadron, Offutt AFB, Neb., captured the honor in 2001.

Abed was one of 46 nominees from Air Force major commands and agencies to compete for the top enlisted honor and one of three representing the Reserve in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition. The Air Force announced its selections July 9.

Abed was born in San Antonio, Texas, and graduated from Harlandale High School in May 1987.

After enlisting in the Air Force as a security forces apprentice, he was assigned to the 149th Security Forces Squadron, Texas Air National Guard, Kelly AFB, Texas, until 1992. In December 1997, he graduated from Wayland Baptist University with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice.

He joined the IMA program in February 1999.

"I tell my wife it is that deep sense of pride within me for the country and the patriotism it stands for that caused me to rejoin the Air Force," he said.

"I also want to show the youth of the Arab-American community the good that the military represents and be a role model for them."

While serving as

an IMA, Abed was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle and assigned to Laughlin AFB, Texas. As an installation patrolman, he assisted the U.S. Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service with the apprehension of illegal aliens who were attempting to avoid capture on the base.

After being at Laughlin for four months, he volunteered to deploy in support of Operation Fundamental Justice in part because he speaks fluent Arabic and Spanish. He participated in a total of six flights into Afghanistan to transport more than 250 Al Qaeda and Taliban detainees to Camp X-ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

During his off-duty time, Abed volunteers as a Bexar County probation officer; works with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter; and teaches General Educational Development classes in mathematics, English, social science, reading and history.

Abed said he feels being an IMA makes this award exceptionally special. "It's like juggling three lives — military life, a civilian job, and civilian family life," he said. "The transition is an exercise on its own. To be spotlighted so much, I hope people see how the job gets done and realize that we still manage to keep family life together and have a civilian job to come back to."

Abed works as a field property claims adjuster at an insurance company.

He said it is "numbing" to receive such a prestigious award. "It's a great honor. And it's hard to accept an award of that nature when every airman deserves it."

"No matter how hard it was on him to be mobilized, it never affected his performance



Courtesy photo

Outstanding Airman of 2003 SSgt. Omar Abed, a security forces craftsman, makes an "arrest" during an exercise.

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# ARPC welcomes new commander

By Rachel Bubb  
Staff writer

Col. James Playford succeeded Col. K.C. McClain Aug. 21 as commander of Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

"I'm most excited about coming to Denver," he said. "I'm a mountain kind of guy who's been stuck in the southeast for 11 years now!

I'm also excited about coming to ARPC, though I've got to admit, I have a huge learning curve. I worked at the active duty counterpart — the AFPC [Air Force Personnel Center] at Randolph [Air Force Base, Texas] — for three and a half years, so I have a good idea of the kinds of people programs offered ... just not necessarily how they're applied to our reserve forces."

Playford moves to ARPC from Columbus AFB, Miss., where he was commander of the 14th Mission Support Group. There, he was responsible for all infrastructure and communications, fire protection, security police, contracting support, transportation, fuels, supplies, and personnel/administrative support for the 14th Flying Training Wing.

His command included five squadrons and two divisions totaling more than 700 people and an annual budget of \$45 million. He worked closely with mayors of different cities and was often referred to as the mayor of Columbus AFB.

Playford was commissioned in 1978 with a bachelor's in secondary education and English from the University of Nevada and a master's degree in economics from Utah State University.

He also attended Undergraduate Navigator Training at Mather AFB, Calif., and Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas, where he underwent a tour as flight commander and chief of the Field Leadership Branch.

As commander of ARPC, Playford is responsible for overseeing all of ARPC's activities.

ARPC is a direct reporting unit to the Air Force Reserve Command and provides personnel services to all members of the AFRC and Air National Guard. Services include assignments, promotions, career counseling and development, and separation actions.

The center also manages the individual mobilization augmentee program for the Ready Reserve and maintains master personnel records for all Guard and Reserve members not on extended active duty.

The colonel has three adult children and moves to Colorado with his wife, Lin, and two Labradoradors.

McClain, a brigadier general selectee, becomes deputy director of operations for technical training at Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Col. James Playford receives the ARPC flag from Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 21. CMSgt. Glenda Haddican, Assignment Programs Division chief, serves as the guide-on bearer.



Col. James Playford addresses the audience as his first official act as the commander of HQ ARPC.



Photos by Cheresa Theiral

*Air Reserve Personnel*

## UPDATE

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# AF unveils plan to wear test new utility uniform

By TSgt. David Jablonski

*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** – Air Force officials announced plans Aug. 6 for the wear test of a new utility uniform that could replace the current battle dress uniform.

The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble is a departure from the current woodland-pattern uniform and includes many new features that are intended to increase functionality and provide a distinctive look for airmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, officials said.

Three hundred uniforms will undergo wear testing from January to July at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Langley AFB, Va.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; McChord AFB, Wash.; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Robins AFB, Ga.; Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The test will generate feedback about fit, durability and functionality.

“Our intent is to create a uniform that will be distinctive, practical, easy to maintain, comfortable and, most important, a uniform you will be proud to wear,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper.

“We have become a more expeditionary force, with less time at home to spend caring for the uniform,” Jumper said. “In the last 20 years, material technology has improved greatly. As a result, we have designed one uniform that can satisfy our various climates and utility needs, while eliminating the need for professional ironing to provide a polished appearance.”

Jumper said the distinctive Air Force uniform is designed to fit well, look sharp and require much less maintenance than the current uniform.

“We (also) need to ensure our airmen have a uniform that fulfills our unique air and space missions,” he added.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray said great care is being taken to ensure the best possible uniform is created to meet future needs.

“I believe that one of the great strengths of our Air Force and its airmen is the ability to adapt to new missions, new technologies and an ever-changing world landscape,” he said. “This new utility uniform is another example of seeing a need for improvement and moving forward.”

A key step in bringing any new uniform item into service is feedback from airmen in the field, Murray said.

“I believe it’s a uniform fitting of the world’s greatest expeditionary Air Force and one that we will be proud to wear,” he said. “We want your feedback as well – not shoot-from-the-hip feedback, but feedback that comes from seeing the uniform in action and thinking about how it will meet your needs based on your work environment.

“It’s important to remember that this is a wear test, and the decision about whether or not to adopt some, all or none of this



Air Force members model the proposed utility uniform.

uniform will be made after considering the results of the test and feedback about how it meets airmen’s needs,” Murray said.

According to officials, the wash and wear uniform will be easier to maintain and will not require professional laundering or starching. Officials estimate that home laundering can save up to \$240 in laundry costs over the course of a year.

Unlike the current BDU, the new version comes in men’s and women’s cuts. The separate women’s uniform reflects the growth in the number of women in the service. In the late 1980s women comprised less than 13 percent of the total force; today nearly one in five airmen are women.

Officials said other possible advantages to the uniform include:

- ♦Using the same fabric identified by the Marines as the optimum material for wash and wear characteristics;

- ♦A camouflage pattern that corresponds to the jobs airmen do in most situations that require a utility uniform,

- ♦Recalling the “tiger stripe” camouflage pattern used during the Vietnam War, but with the distinctive Air Force logo embedded into a color scheme that preliminary testing indicates may provide better camouflage.

Officials are also considering maintenance-free boots and alternative T-shirts.

The uniform patterns are being cut, with production to begin in November. Data collection and analysis, and any potential adjustments, will occur from August through October 2004. A final decision on the uniform is expected in December 2004. If approved, production could begin as soon as 2005, with a phase-in date to be determined.

## IMA only reserve dog handler in AFSPC

Photo and story by SSgt. Stefano Collins  
*Front Range Flyer*

Although active duty members are generally the only security forces who work with military dogs as partners, TSgt. Matthew Stogsdill broke the mold, in Air Force Space Command at least.

Stogsdill is an individual mobilization augmentee working as a military working dog handler with the 21st Security Forces Squadron.

"Stogsdill was active duty here previously. He left active duty, and was the first in line volunteering to come back after 9/11," said TSgt. Richard VanWinkle, NCOIC, military working dog section.

After deploying and returning, Stogsdill was offered a dog handler position.

"This is unheard of for Guard and Reserve personnel; largely due to the fact that so much training has to be maintained. It is not possible to complete the monthly training requirements over the course of one drill weekend," VanWinkle said.

But there was a critical shortage of dog handlers and increased duty requirements. Since Stogsdill already had the training and a proven strong work ethic, he was the perfect candidate.

"He has always been a good worker," VanWinkle said. "He is always willing to step up and does whatever needs to be

done to achieve mission accomplishment."

It seems Stogsdill has impressed many. He was selected to receive the 21st Security Forces Squadron Enlisted IMA of the Year Award for 2002, and was nominated for 21st Space Wing Enlisted IMA of the Year for 2002.

In addition to military installation security, Stogsdill and his military working dog, Rudy, are tasked to support a variety of high profile security details.

"I have worked hand-in-hand with the Secret Service, U.S. Marshals and have worked in Presidential and Vice-Presidential details," Stogsdill said. "And I get to do this with Rudy."

Stogsdill worked with Rudy while on active duty.

"The Reserve program has been wonderful, especially the opportunity to reconnect with Rudy," Stogsdill said. "This brings man and dog together and creates a bond that can't be broken. During the deployment, my separation from him was like being away from one of my kids, and it felt like a piece of my heart was missing."

Stogsdill said Rudy will "retire" in October and is no longer worldwide deployable. A military working dog's 'retirement' package is actually a "disposition" package. The process of a dog's retirement is approved at the



TSgt. Matthew Stogsdill, shown here with Rudy, is the only reservist dog handler in Air Force Space Command.

security forces canine training headquarters at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Retired working dogs are usually adopted. Former and current dog handlers who are seeking to adopt a retired working dog are given top priority. Stogsdill plans to pursue adoption of Rudy.

Stogsdill is also pursuing a career opportunity as a canine handler with the U.S. Customs Service. He wants to assist with border control and protection of homeland security and combat drugs and terrorism.

His military experiences have provided a strong foundation for this. "It has definitely helped to build bridges for the next step in my civilian life," he said.

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on duty at the base," said CMSgt. Kevin Reser, Abed's supervisor. "He was always first to volunteer to be deployed and was deployed to Texas and overseas three different times. He did a phenomenal job everywhere he went and always gave 110 percent on everything he tried to do."

The 12 OAY will be honored during the AFA's national convention Sept. 13-17 in Washington.

They are awarded the Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year. They also serve on the AFA Enlisted Council for one year.

The other 11 Outstanding Airmen for 2003 recipients are:

- ♦MSgt. Douglas Ackerman, air transportation craftsman assigned as the superintendent, Aerial Port Operations, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany;

- ♦SrA. Hector Bauza, biomedical engineering journeyman, 18th Medical Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan;

- ♦SSgt. Jason Blodzinski, combat control journeyman, Blue Team of the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla;

- ♦TSgt. James Coffey, flight chief, 50th Security Forces Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colo.;

- ♦SMSgt. Keith Finney, chief of heavy repair, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea;

- ♦TSgt. Tara Marta, NCOIC, Surveillance, Standardization and Evaluation Flight, 932nd Air Control Squadron, Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland;

- ♦SMSgt. Thomas McConnell, munitions material superintendent, 39th Maintenance Squadron, 39th Wing, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey;

- ♦SrA. Nathan Summers, C-130H crew chief, 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas;

- ♦SrA. Harold Tolbert, civil engineer heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration apprentice, 9th Civil Engineer Squadron, Beale AFB, Calif.;

- ♦SSgt. Christopher Tuck, contracting specialist, 325th Contracting Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and

- ♦TSgt. Kevin Vance, terminal attack controller, 17th Air Support Operations Squadron, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

# Pentagon IMA receives Airman Medal

By Rachel Bubb

Staff writer

Maj. Jim Schaefer, an IMA in the Office of the Air Force Reserve Public Affairs, at the Pentagon, received the Airman's Medal July 11 for heroism involving voluntary risk of life at the World Trade Center, on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Airman's Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly nation who, while serving in any capacity with the United States Air Force, distinguishes themselves by a heroic act, usually at the voluntary risk of their life but not involving actual combat with an enemy. It is the highest award for heroism that can be given in peacetime.

Schaefer was present when the planes first hit the World Trade towers and immediately assisted law enforcement by helping put up barricades to direct the flow of pedestrian traffic toward safety.

"I decided myself to return to the burning towers to see if I could assist any paramedics as I had initial emergency and triage training in the Air Force medical service corps," Schaefer said in his action summary.

He also assisted in establishing a triage center to treat the injured during the immediate attack. In the days that followed, he assisted the military leadership in setting up an emergency military command post and coordinating the action of approximately 160 military volunteers.

Schaefer said the honor was humbling. "So often out of the



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Ralph Clem, mobilization assistant to the chief of the Air Force Reserve, presents the Airman's medal to Maj. Jim Schaefer for heroism.

Audrey Bahler, AF/REIP chief of public affairs.

"He could have gone straight to safety, and he didn't. He was willing to risk his life to save other people, and that's very commendable."

Schaefer was one of more than a hundred reservists who provided their services during the 9/11 crisis. "It was a call to the cannons. I felt an obligation, and the only reason I was allowed back into the area was because I showed my military ID. We weren't in uniform, but we could still use the skills we had from the military to help during that time."

At one point, the ash in the air was so heavy that Schaefer was forced to breathe through his shirt to continue to assisting others. He served as a site representative for the President at ground zero.

ashes of our despair rise the seed of hope and aspiration that gives us the strength and conviction and often the courage to do what is right and good," he said.

"I felt that in some small way, wearing that decoration would inspire that same conviction in others. It's hard to put into words how you feel. Normally when you receive this honor it's surrounding good circumstances, but this was a bad time for everyone. I only did what I thought was the right thing to do. It's a very humbling honor."

Humbling, but deserved. Schafer's supervisor is proud of his actions. "He's a very courageous person," said Lt. Col.

## AAFES experiences uniform shortages

### Exclusive fabric supplier faces Chapter 11 reorg.

DALLAS, Texas (AFPN) — Delays in getting certified fabric have backed up production of selected Air Force and Army optional uniforms.

Those items include Air Force polyester/wool blend shirts and blouses, polyester slacks and skirts, mess dress uniforms and officer service coats sold through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES.

The shortages are expected to continue through fall, AAFES officials said.

Lengthened delivery times on certified fabrics have caused the shortage. Burlington Industries, the sole certified manufacturer of nearly every fabric used in military uniforms, has been reorganizing under Chapter 11 during the past year.

As part of their reorganization plan, they have become a "made-to-order" supplier, causing fabric-delivery times to increase from five to six weeks to six months or more.

There is now a four to five month gap in the pipeline, officials said.

Uniforms produced by Army and Air Force-certified manufacturers with certified fabrics are the only uniforms sold in

military clothing sales stores.

AAFES is not authorized to use other fabrics or purchase optional uniforms from companies that do not meet approved supplier requirements, AAFES officials said.

AAFES officials continue to work with the Air Force and Army clothing and textile offices to find additional manufacturers to supply certified fabric, officials said.

In the meantime, military clothing sales store workers are moving merchandise to different stores to meet the immediate needs of military members.

(Courtesy of AAFES)

## Reservists encouraged to 'Get One'

The Get One Program is an Air Force Reserve command-wide program that gives reservists a mechanism for referring friends, coworkers and family members to the Air Force Reserve.

For their efforts, reservists receive referral and accession awards.

In the program's second year, individual mobilization augmentees lead the way with 71 enlistments from Get One referrals.

More than 14 percent of new recruits come from referrals made by reservists, making the program the highest lead-to-accession source.

To refer a friend, coworker or family member, reservists can visit the Get One Program Web site at [www.afreserve.com/getone/](http://www.afreserve.com/getone/) and click on the "Refer a friend" button.

Once the referral information is submitted, the reservist will receive an award just for participating.

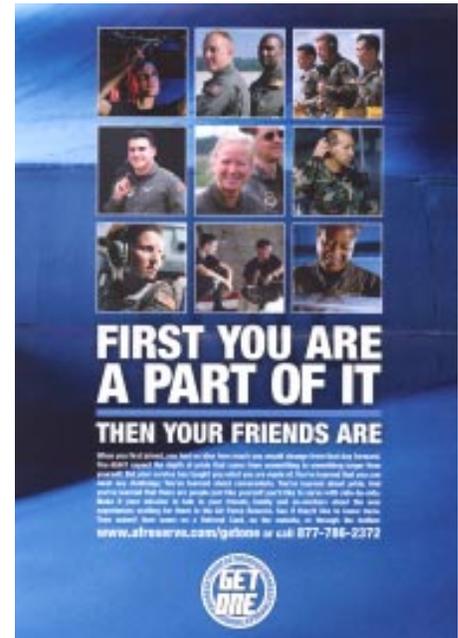
Referral awards include items such as a Get One sponge, luggage tag, water bottle and glass mug. Soon after the information is received, the referral will receive a phone call from an Air Force Reserve recruiter.

If a referral enlists in the Air Force Reserve, the referrer will receive another special award and recognition. Enlistment awards vary from a portfolio for the first enlistment to a bomber jacket with a Get One patch with the fifth enlistment.

The referer of an enlistments receives recognition at commander's call, a write-up in base papers, and a special recognition by the AFRC commander.

All reservists are eligible to participate, with the exception of AFRC recruiters. There is no limit to the number of referrals a member can submit.

A referral must result in an enlistment within 24 months to qualify for an enlistment award.



Advertisements such as this encourage reservists to take an active role in recruiting their friends, family and coworkers into the Air Force Reserve.

## *SGLI/VGLI information offered to retirees joining AF Reserve*

The following information regarding Servicemember's Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, and Veteran's Group Life Insurance, or VGLI, is for active duty retirees joining the Air Force Reserve.

### **How do I get a refund when I have dual coverage of SGLI and VGLI?**

When the members who have dual coverage contact the SGLI office to inform them that they have SGLI again, OSGLI will refund the VGLI premiums for the dual coverage period. If the timeframe is longer than a year from when the member went back onto SGLI-eligible duty, the member may be asked to provide evidence of when the SGLI began (i.e., leave and earning statement).

### **Should I apply for VGLI while I still have SGLI?**

Here are three points that you need to know before deciding on VGLI coverage:

- ♦ You can have both SGLI and VGLI, but the combined coverage can not be more than \$250,000.
- ♦ Generally premiums for the SGLI coverage are less than for the VGLI.
- ♦ When you separate from your full time Guard/Reserve duty, your SGLI entitlement

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## Registry to block solicitors available

The creation of the National Do Not Call Registry has had telemarketers reeling and consumers smiling.

Most people, however, do not know what they are getting into when they sign up to be put on the list.

The National Do Not Call Registry is managed by the Federal Trade Commission, or FTC, which is the nation's consumer protection agency.

The FTC created the National Do Not Call Registry to give consumers a choice on telemarketing. The decision to create the registry came after a three year review that included workshops, meetings and briefings to solicit feedback on the formation of the registry.

The National Do Not Call Registry is set up to stop most telemarketing calls. Some businesses are exempt from the registry such as long distance phone companies, airlines, banks and credit unions, and insurance companies.

Political solicitations and telephone surveys are not covered by the registry either. Businesses that an individual has established a relationship with are not covered by the registry. They may contact customers up to 18 months after their last purchase or delivery.

People may give specific companies written permission to call.

After registering a number for the National Do Not Call Registry, it will remain on the list for five years from the date of registration unless the person chooses to remove the number during that time.

If a number was registered by Aug. 31, telemarketing calls will be fewer by Oct. 1. After Aug. 31, telemarketers have three months from the date of registration to remove numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry from their lists.

Three personal phone numbers may be registered at one time using the Web site at [www.donotcall.gov/](http://www.donotcall.gov/). People with more than three numbers to register must go through the process more than once.

Business phone numbers cannot be registered in the National Do Not Call Registry.

# Reserve compiles list of service obligations

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – Reservists and those planning to join the Air Force Reserve will incur a service obligation for certain kinds of training, education and promotions starting Oct. 1.

The following are the events affected by Air Force Reserve Command's Reserve Service Commitment Policy and the corresponding lengths of service required:

- ♦ Undergraduate pilot training – 10 years.
- ♦ Undergraduate navigator training – six years.
- ♦ Air battle manager undergraduate training – six years.
- ♦ Non-prior service enlistment – six years or term of enlistment.
- ♦ In-residence doctoral medical/dental education or technical training for 20 weeks or longer – five years concurrent with other service commitments.
- ♦ Line, chaplain and judge advocate officer commissioning from the Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., and Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala. – four years.
- ♦ Military Physician Assistant Training – four years.
- ♦ In-residence advanced flying training – three years.

This includes initial qualification and re-qualification training for test pilot school students, navigators and enlisted flight engineers on fixed or rotary-wing aircraft. The applicable advanced flying training courses will be listed on the Air Education and Training Command Web site. AETC pilot instructor training pilots who transfer without a break in flying to another AETC non-military weapons system aircraft, after completing initial training, do not incur an additional commitment.

- ♦ In-residence Air Force weapons instructor course – three years for all Air Force specialty codes.

♦ In-residence education or technical school training for 20 weeks or more – three years.

♦ In-residence non-doctoral medical/dental education or technical training for 20 weeks or longer – three years concurrent with other service commitments.

♦ Officer in-residence professional military education at intermediate or senior service school – three years.

♦ Direct accession of health profession officer – three years minimum term of service.

♦ Promotions to E-7, E-8 and E-9 – two years or date of high year of tenure, whichever is less. Commissioned officer promotions are not affected per the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act.

♦ Officer tuition assistance – two years per Air Force Instruction 36-2306, *Education Services Program*.

♦ In-residence instructor qualification courses – two years.

♦ Enlisted in-residence professional military education – two years.

♦ Ready Reserve Health Professions Stipend Program – a minimum two-year service obligation at a rate of two years for each year of assistance.

♦ Graduate medical/dental education and deferred/re-deferred residency training through the Health Professions Scholarship Program and Financial Assistance Program – one year for every year of training with a minimum service obligation of two years.

♦ Squadron Officer School, and Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala. – one year.

Two or more Reserve Service Commitments will be served concurrently, not consecutively. When two or more RSC events overlap, the event with the lengthiest obligation will take precedence. (*AFRC News Service*)

## Program managers convene at ARPC

By Lt. Col. Gus Schalkham  
*Director, public affairs*

“IMA Program Management Today and Tomorrow” was the theme for the IMA Program Managers Conference held at HQ ARPC Aug. 7.

The event, led by Air Force Reserve Command Commander Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, brought together program managers from throughout the world, providing them an opportunity to address different issues.

Sherrard discussed the mission of the program, which is “to provide a trained and ready force.”

Accomplishing that mission begins with each program manager. “You are the key,” he said. “Your role is to educate everyone from the active duty, IMA and supervisors on what is expected of the IMA force.”

This means “you must, as managers, not only track requirements, but they must be enforced,” the general said. “IMAs must be held accountable ... The best way for

all of this to take place is through communication.”

One important area for communication to IMAs is a reminder of the purpose for performing mandays and RPA days.

Those days are not performed just because the member wants to come into the office. There needs to be a constructive benefit for the organization as well as the member.

The team concept could not be lost on the managers. Sherrard shared with them, “You are my eyes and ears in your organization, and you are my link to the IMA.”

“Remember your true heritage, and do not forget your roots. You are reserve officers, and you are part of the reserve team.”

Program managers also had the opportunity to hear briefs on topics ranging from computer hardware updates to proposals for program management.

Overall, the conference reminded pro-



*Mike Molina*

Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, Air Force Reserve Command commander, addresses program managers during their conference at HQ ARPC Aug. 7.

gram managers how important their management role is regarding the overall success of the reserve force.

## **SGLI** Continued from Page 6

will cease, and you will then be eligible to apply for VGLI. You should receive letters from the VA about your VGLI eligibility at that time.

The SGLI/VGLI Handbook lists several situations where double coverage may occur and what the member must do to avoid it.

♦If a member currently insured under VGLI, reenters on active duty or active duty for training, he or she is automatically covered under SGLI. Members who desire to keep VGLI must contact their unit and decline SGLI on SGLV Form 8286.

♦Members insured under VGLI may stop payment of VGLI premiums and elect to be covered under SGLI. These members are entitled to reapply for VGLI upon release or separation, provided their duty was performed under a call or order specifying a period of duty 31 days or longer. If the period of duty is less than 31 days, the member is not eligible to apply for a new VGLI period. However, the member can apply to have his or her VGLI reinstated as outlined in paragraph 11.11 of the SGLI/VGLI Handbook.

♦Individuals who have VGLI and elect to become insured again under SGLI upon entering a new period of duty may convert any or all of their VGLI to a commercial policy within 60 days after becoming insured under the SGLI program. If a person dies within the 60-day period and before converting, VGLI will be payable in an amount which, when added to the SGLI, does not exceed the maximum coverage allowed under the law.

### **Will SGLI pay out the full \$250,000 even if I have other life insurance?**

Yes. If you have the maximum amount of SGLI, you have the right to retain any other government or private insurance.

More information regarding SGLI if available from the Entitlements Branch at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71228, or DSN 926-6438. Questions about VGLI can be directed to (800) 419-1473.

## **IMA travel office clarifies voucher, split disb. issues**

The IMA Travel Office is getting a lot of questions concerning mandatory split disbursement and the supervisor's responsibility to sign the DD 1351-2. Reservists and their supervisors should know:

♦The supervisor or approving official must sign the DD 1351-2 in Block 20c, "Supervisor Signature Block." They must also ensure Block 1 is complete. If it isn't, the voucher should be returned to the traveler for completion.

♦If the traveler does not have a government travel card, only the "electronic funds transfer," or EFT, box should be checked.

♦If the traveler has a government travel card, the EFT and the split disbursement block should be checked and an amount entered to reflect all unpaid charges on the charge card.

♦The travel pay office will pay only the amount entered in Block 1 of the DD 1351-2 to the travel card. If no amount is entered, no amount will be paid to the travel card.

♦The traveler's responsibility is to identify travel card charges separately on the DD 1351-2. This is not for the benefit of the travel pay office. This is for the benefit of the supervisor.

♦All ranks must have their DD 1351-2s signed by a supervisor.

♦Supervisor's signature is not required for accrual vouchers for extended TDYs (advance payments). Final settlement claims require signature.

♦An approving official signature is required when authorizing additional entitlements. There could be times when one person signs as a supervisor and an approving official.

♦The IMA Travel Office will begin returning vouchers to the traveler on Sept. 2 if Block 1 and Block 20.c. are not complete.

Members with questions can contact the IMA Travel Office Customer Service at (800) 808-5942.

# **New climate survey includes reservists**

By 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson

*Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs*

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN)** — This year, for the first time, the Air Force Climate Survey will include all Air Force reservists.

Feedback from last year's study, formerly the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey, prompted the Air Force to involve a larger audience in the new survey, which will gauge factors affecting the day-to-day mission, leadership and availability of resources.

Past surveys were limited to the active-duty Air Force and Department of Defense civilians. This year's survey, which runs Oct. 1 to Nov. 23, will be expanded to include members of the Air Force Reserve Command, including individual mobilization augmentees, and Air National Guard,

as well as nonappropriated fund civilians and students.

"Sustaining the world's pre-eminent air and space force requires continued excellence in the work environment," said Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, commander of AFRC, in a letter to reservists. "This survey will provide valuable information to all reservists and Air Force leaders to achieve that goal. By taking a few brief moments to fill out this survey, you can help your leaders understand your concerns and ultimately better serve you and our nation's interests."

The Air Force Climate Survey 2003 will be easily accessible and user-friendly, according to officials. Participants will complete the online survey by accessing the Web site at [afclimatesurvey.af.mil](http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil).

Comments will not be edited or filtered

and will provide valuable feedback, including new ideas from people.

The survey will seek input on issues from every major level of the Air Force. It will serve as a tool to measure the climate of an organization, asking participants to evaluate factors having the greatest influence on their service — general satisfaction, unit performance outcomes, recognition, teamwork, supervision, training, career development, job enhancement, resources, participation and unit flexibility.

The survey will also provide anonymity with software masking techniques that do not attach the respondent's user identification and password to survey responses.

The results of the survey will be released in February. More information can be found at [afclimatesurvey.af.mil](http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil). (*AFRC News Service*)

# Performance report procedures reviewed

Officer performance reports, or OPRs, are due annually or upon change of rater, in which case a change of rating official may be required. OPRs may also be required when directed by Headquarters Air Force or the member's commander.

About 60 days before the closeout date, the servicing military personnel flight notifies the officer's rater that an OPR is due. Officers should contact their rater to ensure he or she is accomplishing the OPR and to provide input if requested. It is a good idea, after every tour, to make bulleted notes describing what was done, how it was done, and what the results were to send to the reporter.

Officers should seek approval from their commanders before training at any unit other than their unit of assignment or attachment. If training at a different location, ensure the training supervisor provides feedback to your rater. This increases the chances of their report being submitted on time and prevents future problems.

OPRs are critical to the promotion process. Therefore, officers should ensure that their record is accurate. Officers eligible for promotion should review their officer pre-selection brief and take action to ensure their current OPR is in their officer selection record before the board convenes.

OPRs should be filed in the officer selection record within 90 days after the closeout date. Once the report is completed and filed in the Unit Personnel Record Group, IMAs and participating individual ready reservists, or PIRRs, may request a copy of their report from the HQ ARPC Customer Service

Branch at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71388.

Enlisted performance reports, or EPRs, vary slightly from OPRs. Sixteen active duty or inactive duty training points must be accomplished in order for an EPR to be rendered. EPRs are due biennially for IMAs, PIRRs and unit assigned reservists, staff sergeant and above. They may also be required when directed by Headquarters Air Force or the member's commander as well.

Reports may be required when there is a change of reporting official as long as the member meets the points and supervision requirements.

As with an OPR, the servicing MPF should notify the member's rater that a report is due. Ratees should contact their rater to ensure that he or she is accomplishing an EPR and to provide information, as is done with OPRs. This should occur about 90 days before the closeout date.

EPRs are important to document performance, and are a means of holding people accountable. They break down the difference between active duty and reserve forces and aid in the decision process for actions such as promotions, in-residence professional military education, awards and decorations, commissioning, assignments and nomination for position vacancies.

EPRs are filed in the Unit Personnel Record Group at the servicing MPF 60 days after the closeout date. Once the report is completed and filed in the UPRG, IMAs and PIRRs may request a copy of their report from the HQ ARPC Customer Service Branch at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71388.

If a report (either an OPR or an EPR) is not received within 18 months of the report closeout date, the record is "gapped." This simply means that an Air Force Form 77, "Supplemental Evaluation Sheet," is filed in the record in place of the missing or overdue report. For OPRs, HQ ARPC notifies members before placing the AF Form 77 in their record. A gap in the record means no record of performance for that period is available for promotion or selection board review. This form becomes a matter of record and is not removed unless approved through proper administrative channels.

With both OPRs and EPRs, it is the responsibility of the member to know who their rater is and to ensure their record is accurate. The ratee should know when the report is due and should keep track of duties performed to provide input for the rater.

IMAs and PIRRs may direct questions to HQ ARPC/DPBR2 at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71340; DSN 926-7475; or e-mail [aprc.dpbr2dl@aprc.denver.af.mil](mailto:aprc.dpbr2dl@aprc.denver.af.mil).

For more information visit the ARPC Web site at [aprc.afrc.af.mil/promo/general.htm](http://aprc.afrc.af.mil/promo/general.htm).

Category	EPR minimum requirements		
	Annual	Biennial	Change of rating official
IMAs/PIRRs	None	16 points	16 points
Unit reservists	None	16 points	16 points
AGR (ANG/USAFR)	120 days of supervision	None	120 days of supervision
ANG members	N/A	N/A	N/A

Category	OPR minimum requirements		
	Annual	Change of rating official (CRO)	Headquarters Air Force or commander directed
IMAs/PIRRs	12 points	12 points	None
Unit reservists	16 points and 180 days of supervision	16 points and 180 days of supervision	None
Air National Guard	120 days of supervision	120 days of supervision	None
Active Guard/Reserve	180 days of supervision	120 days of supervision	None

## Briefs

### vRED completion mandatory

Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, replaces the Form Flow version of DD Form 93, "Record of Emergency Data."

Completion of the vRED is mandatory for all Air Force members.

The vRED, which resides within the Virtual Military Personnel Flight, or vMPF, architecture will enable member's 24/7 access to their emergency data through the AFPC secure server from anywhere there is a computer terminal with internet access. It provides real time central data storage and backup capabilities.

Members must access the vMPF Web site and update their vRED information immediately.

The vMPF is available at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil). Click on the vMPF logo in the center of the page.

Individuals need to establish a vMPF account by logging onto the vMPF Web site and following the directions. Individuals will need their Social Security number, major command, pay date and date of birth

to establish this vMPF account.

### Name tag wear date established

The mandatory wear date of the new metallic name tag is Jan. 1.

Enlisted IMAs should have received a letter from ARPC with purchasing instructions. Enlisted purchase letters expire Sept. 19. After that, replacement-in-kind purchase can be made via ARPC Form 29 available at [arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://arpc.afrc.af.mil) under "uniform replacement."

Officers will purchase their own name tags, which are available online at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) under "Military Clothing."

The new name tag for wear on the service dress uniform became available for purchase in November 2002.

It is worn on the right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the name tag parallel to the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve and the lapel.

IMAs can obtain more information on the new name tag and other uniform is-

sues from the Data Update Branch at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71388; DSN 926-6528 or e-mail [arpc.dpscb@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:arpc.dpscb@arpc.denver.af.mil).

### AF fitness goes back to basics

The Air Force will begin a new fitness program starting Jan. 1.

After 10 years of fitness testing based on cycle ergometry, the Air Force will go back to the basics of running, sit-ups and push-ups.

Those who aren't medically cleared to run may still use cycle ergometry testing.

Responsibility for physical training will be in the chain of command, with leadership coming from the top, starting with commanders and senior NCOs.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper encourages civilians to join with uniformed peers in participating in the new program.

He feels this change is needed because of the growing expeditionary nature of our business.

See **Briefs**, Page 12

## JAG and paralegal news

### IMA receives prestigious honor

Col. Kevin Kuhn, senior IMA judge advocate at the Air Force JAG School, was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers.



Kuhn

Kuhn has been a member of the Reserve since his separation from active duty in 1981.

The induction ceremony, at which Kuhn became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, took place March 22 at the annual meeting of the college in Boca Raton, Fla.

The American College of Trial Lawyers, founded in 1950, is widely considered to be the premier professional organization in America. It is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada.

Fellowship in the college is by invita-

tion, extended only after careful investigation to those experienced trial lawyers who have demonstrated exceptional skill as advocates and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism and civility.

### Participation requirements

As a reminder, reservists must meet both Retention/Retirement, or R/R, Year and Fiscal Year, or FY requirements.

An R/R date is unique to each reservist. The R/R year requirement is to earn 50 points from any combination of inactive duty training, or IDT; annual tour; special tours; school tours; ECI courses and 15 membership points.

The FY is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. All mandatory training requirements (annual tour and IDTs) must be performed within the fiscal year.

The IMA judge advocate and paralegal programs require 12 days/24 periods of IDT and 12 days/12 points annual tour.

These minimum requirements exclude

any travel time. Normally only school tours, deployments and mobilization can substitute for annual tours.

Both FY and R/R year requirements are monitored by HQ ARPC and determine retention in the Reserve program. This can also impact promotion boards and Quality Review Panel results.

Please take both very seriously and plan your schedules accordingly.

### FY 04 JAG school courses

**Mandatory courses:** Attendees will be notified by ARPC/JA and will be directed to submit a WOTS request as required.

- ♦ Reserve Forces Judge Advocate Course (RFJAC), Oct. 6-10 and April 26-30;

- ♦ Reserve Forces Paralegal Course (RFPC), July 26-Aug. 6;

- ♦ Senior Reserve Forces Paralegal Course (SrRFPC), Dec. 1-5; and

- ♦ Annual Survey of the Law; Jan. 23-25.

**Optional judge advocate courses:** If interested, submit a WOTS request 75-90

See **JA**, Page 12

## Chaplain news

### Workshop reflections

More than 200 IMA Chaplain Service members took part in the Worldwide Workshop in Denver Aug. 4-6.

Chaplain (Maj.) Keith Muschinske presented key information on Chaplain Service Readiness and supplied members with



Mike Molina

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) David Webb, Reserve advisor to the chief of the Air Force Chaplains Services, addresses the attendees of the Worldwide Workshop in Denver Aug. 5.

both a CD of his briefings and the "Readiness: USAF Chaplain Service" CD.

Absentees may request copies of these, as well as the Chaplain Service Mentoring Handbook CD from ARPC/HCX.

Representatives of the Air Force Special Operations Command and some IMA chaplains and chaplain assistants who have been mobilized also presented their stories.

The closing banquet featured Chaplain (Col.) Lowrie Welton, command chaplain of the Air Force Reserve Command, as well as musical entertainment by the Rampart Winds of the USAF Band of the Rockies.

### In memoriam

Our sympathy is with Julie James, whose husband, Chaplain (Col.) John Eldon James, an IMA attached to Altus AFB, Okla., passed away from a blood clot to the heart following surgery for esophagus cancer.

The funeral was July 29.

### Candidate program surging

With goals for increasing numbers of chaplain candidates, 44 attended COT in 2003, and 43 completed the Chaplain Can-

didate Course, which is now an "official" course in the Chaplain Service Institute curriculum and is now 12 days in length.

### Chaplain service competencies

Every IMA chaplain and chaplain assistant should learn to explain the core competencies of the Air Force Chaplain Service.

Learn to explain how the Chaplain Service provides agile combat support through the competencies of spiritual care and ethical leadership.

Study these concepts, and reflect on what they have meant in your experience. As we live out these concepts and explain them to others, we'll also be ready to recruit new members to fill the urgent need for more chaplains and chaplain assistants.

### Special assistants

Having completed Air War College in residence, Chaplain (Col.) David Markwalder has returned to ARPC/HC to focus on recruiting. In addition, Chaplain (Col.) John Kurzak has moved from IMA to extended active duty status in a position emphasizing cultivation of Catholic chaplains and chaplain candidates.

## Medical profession news

### SG bids farewell to director

Col. Linda McHale, director of Health Services Individual Reserve Programs, has accepted a great civilian job opportunity here in the Denver area.

We will miss her patriotic spirit and dedication to our medical IMAs and the Air Force Reserve. However, we will not entirely lose her as she is rejoining the ranks as an IMA.

We wish her great luck in her new endeavor!

### HPSP grads should check MSD

Health Professions Scholarship Program, or HPSP, graduates should be aware of Section 515 of the FY2000 National Defense Authorization Act, which permits credit for good years towards retirement

for your period of service as an HPSP recipient.

It excludes service after appointment as a commissioned officer while in a program of advanced education to obtain the first professional degree required for appointment, designation or assignment to a professional specialty from being considered in an officer's years of service.

This means that while you are granted points and additional years towards retirement, the total years you are eligible to serve is not reduced. Because the HPSP credit has been automatically granted, your mandatory separation date, or MSD, may have been advanced erroneously.

To request an MSD correction, members may contact HQ ARPC Separations Division at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71261; DSN 926-6362; or e-mail [DPSP@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:DPSP@arpc.denver.af.mil).

A copy of the orders placing you on ex-

tended active duty for HPSP or a copy of your DD Form 214 may be necessary to verify eligibility.

### E-mail address updates

Recently we started e-mailing our medical IMA population about important issues and announcements. These include annual and special tours, AMSUS registration and other important topics.

Unfortunately, we are getting several undeliverable e-mails returned to us.

In an effort to communicate with you more efficiently, we request that medical IMAs send an e-mail to [arpc.sge@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:arpc.sge@arpc.denver.af.mil) with a primary and alternate e-mail address.

This will allow us to update our address books and keep you up-to-date on announcements and other important issues.

**Briefs Continued from Page 10**

Air Force people deploy to all regions of the world, living in tent cities, working on flight lines in extremes of temperatures and may be called on to help defend their bases. Yet, the amount of energy we devote to our fitness program isn't consistent with those demands. It's time to change that.

"I think all of us can agree we were disappointed with the fitness standards we found when we came into the operational Air Force," Jumper said. "The message is simple: If you are out of shape, fix it. If you have people in your squadron who need help, help them. January 2004 is the date. Be ready."

Members can read the full text of the Chief's Sight Picture on Fit to Fight at [www.af.mil/viewpoint/Fit\\_to\\_fight.pdf](http://www.af.mil/viewpoint/Fit_to_fight.pdf).

More information will be published when it is available. (Courtesy July 31 U.S. Air Force Aim Points)

**Child support during mobilization**

Mobilized reservists who have a child support order can seek assistance from their state child support agency if:

- ♦ Their level of income changes as the result of mobilization,
- ♦ Support payments are being withheld from their military paycheck,
- ♦ A child support hearing is scheduled, or
- ♦ The child support order includes health care coverage.

**JA Continued from Page 10**

days before the start date. ARPC/JA will notify those selected to attend 60 days before course date.

- ♦ Advanced Environmental Law Course, June 7-8;
- ♦ Advanced Labor and Employment Course, June 28-July 2;
- ♦ Claims and Tort Litigation Course, Jan. 26-Feb. 3;
- ♦ Environmental Law Course, Nov. 3-7;
- ♦ Environmental Law Update Course, June 9-11;
- ♦ Federal Employee Labor Law Course, Oct. 20-24;
- ♦ Federal Income Tax Law Course, Dec. 15-19;
- ♦ Fiscal Law Course, Feb. 23-27;
- ♦ International Law Course, June 9-11;
- ♦ Military Judges Seminar, April 19-23;
- ♦ Operations Law Course (includes JAG Flag), May 3-14; and
- ♦ Trial and Defense Advocacy Course,

If people owe \$5,000 or more in past-due child support, their passports are withheld until arrangements are made with the state child support agency for paying off the debt. Some states require the debt to be paid before the passport is made available.

If reservists need a passport to complete their military duties, this could create a problem for them, as well as their assigned military unit.

For more information on child support issues, mobilized Air Force IMAs can contact the nearest active-duty legal office. They can also obtain information from state child support enforcement agencies at:

♦ [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta) (State and local IV-D agencies on the Web) and

♦ [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm) (OCSE Information Memorandum IM-01-09).

The Department of Defense provides assistance at [www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal) under "family law matters."

**SECDEF addresses rebalancing**

In a recent memo on rebalancing U.S. forces, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld promotes judicious and prudent use of the Reserve components. He has three objectives:

- ♦ Reduce the need for involuntary mobilization, especially during the first 15 days of a rapid response operation;

Jan. 5-9, July 12-16, Sept. 13-17.

**Optional paralegal courses:** If interested, the IMA paralegal must submit a letter to ARPC/JA stating the reasons for wanting to attend the course. It must include the Law Office Manager's endorsement with recommendation and why.

A board will be held to select attendees. Selectees will be notified to submit a WOTS request a minimum of 60 days before the class start date.

- ♦ Law Office Managers Course (LOMC), June 14-25, April 1 suspense;
- ♦ Operations Law Course (includes JAG Flag), May 3-14, Feb. 15 suspense.

**IMA paralegal promotions**

Congratulations to those IMA paralegals selected for higher graded positions. The list can be found on DocuShare at <https://ds.jag.af.mil/View/Collection-4098>.

♦ Establish a more rigorous joint requirement process that provides timely mobilization notice; and

♦ Improve the efficiency of the mobilization/demobilization process.

The Defense Department's challenge is to develop policies, practices and programs that will support a viable, healthy Reserve component through a very long conflict.

Repeated, long-duration, short-notice involuntary mobilizations cannot be sustained.

Reduced reliance on involuntary mobilization does not imply reduced reliance on Reserve components.

The U.S. military has to innovate, to find ways to integrate the Reserve components into the fight that are suitable to their part-time, citizen airman status.

The Air Force has been and will continue to be a pioneer in finding new ways to tailor our active/air reserve component partnership for the demands of this new conflict. We will do so without backing away from our commitment to a fully-integrated total force and involvement of our part-time airmen in every aspect of the Air Force mission.

"The reserve components are a vital part of the military's total force," Rumsfeld said. "The reserve component personnel who were activated and served in conflicts over the last couple of years have done just a wonderful, wonderful job." (Courtesy July 21 U.S. Air Force Aim Points)

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