

## All AFSCs released from Stop-Loss

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Starting Sept. 1, Air Force Reserve Command and the rest of the Air Force will begin releasing people in the last Air Force specialty codes affected by Stop-Loss.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche announced the release, which will be phased in during a one-month period to allow the Air Force and affected people time for transition. The Air Force began relaxing Stop-Loss in January, and by the end of June the list of remaining AFSCs dropped to three officer and 15 enlisted.

“We have arrived at a new steady-state,” Roche said. “Stop-Loss most certainly helped us get here successfully, but we had pledged all along that we wouldn’t hold onto anyone longer than necessary.”

Reservists with original dates of separation or retirement before April won’t be eligible to outprocess before Sept. 1. People originally eligible to outprocess between April 1 and Sept. 30 have to wait until at least Oct. 1, and those who were to separate or retire on or after Oct. 1 will be able to outprocess on that date.

Reservists have the option of taking up to five months to transition from Stop-Loss status.

AFRC members who are deployed or are on active duty to support ongoing operations will not be released until they return from their deployments or they are demobilized.

“Mobilized reservists are not demobilized, regardless of Stop-Loss provisions, unless the gaining active-duty major command commander or SAF/MR approves the member’s demobilization,” said MSgt. Steve Westmoreland, superintendent of relocations programs in the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Personnel.

When Stop-Loss was implemented in October 2001, it virtually covered every reservist in the Selected Reserve, some 73,000.

The last 18 AFSCs on the Stop-Loss list affect 4,917 reservists. The three officer Stop-Loss AFSCs are 31P security forces, 11S special operations pilot and 12S special operations navigator. The enlisted Stop-Loss AFSCs are 1A1X0 and 1A1X1 flight engineer, 1C0X0 air operations, 1C0X1 airfield management, 1C0X2 operations resource management, 1C1X0 and 1C1X1 air traffic control, 1N0X0 intelligence applications and exploitation, 1N0X1 intelligence applications, 1T2X0 and 1T2X1 combat rescue, 2F0X0 and 2F0X1 fuels, and 3P0X0 and 3P0X1 security forces.

Using an approved waiver of Stop-Loss, reservists have had

the option of requesting to retire or separate from the Air Force Reserve due to hardship. As commander of AFRC, Lt. Gen. James Sherrard has been the final approval authority for Stop-Loss waivers, said Westmoreland.

According to Westmoreland, the general did not take these steps lightly because he recognized the significant impact Stop-Loss has on reservists and their families.

“When feasible, we released the maximum number of reservists possible and allowed significant time to ensure a smooth transition,” Westmoreland said.

Stop-Loss, a Department of Defense program, allows the armed forces to retain military members with critical skills on duty beyond their date of separation or retirement for an open-ended period.

Individual mobilization augmentees may contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Directorate of Personnel Program Management at commercial (303) 676-6426, DSN 926-6426 or toll free 1 (800) 525-0102 Ext. 71290. (*Courtesy of AFRC News Service*)

### *Top enlisted welcomed*



Photo by TSgt. Jim Varhegyi

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFPN) — Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray gives his remarks during his welcome ceremony here July 1. Murray is the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

## Briefs

### Easier TSP program expected

Changes to the Thrift Savings Plan for military and federal civilian employees will make the program easier to use. Effective Sept. 16, the changes include:

- ❑ Daily updating and valuation of accounts;
- ❑ Better online access to accounts;
- ❑ Dollars, shares and share prices on participant statements;
- ❑ Quarterly statements;
- ❑ New open season dates; and
- ❑ Combined participant and loan statements.

Accounts will be transferred into the new system between the end of August and Sept. 16.

More information is available at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). (Courtesy of July 18 U.S. Air Force Aim Points)

### Raptor key in air dominance

The Air Force F-22 Raptor will be the cornerstone of air dominance on any 21<sup>st</sup> century battlefield. The new superiority fighter:

- ❑ Combines stealth, supercruise, maneuverability, integrated avionics, improved supportability;
- ❑ Is an important facet of the Air Force global strike task force concept of operations;
- ❑ Has met or exceeded all required key performance parameters; and

❑ Is projected to become operational in December 2005, with the first squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va. (Courtesy of June 26 U.S. Air Force Aim Points)

### 'Eagle Eyes' fight terrorism

The best judge of knowing who or what belongs in a building, work center or neighborhood is usually the person who lives or works there.

That's the rationale behind one of the latest Air Force antiterrorism initiatives, a program known as "Eagle Eyes." The program resembles a neighborhood-watch program, and Air Force officials consider it a key piece in the service's antiterrorism strategy.

The complete story is available at [www.afrc.af.mil/news/afrcnews/02078.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/news/afrcnews/02078.htm) (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

### OEF successes tallied

The more than 71,000 U.S. and coalition troops fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom have contributed to these successes to date:

- ❑ The Taliban is gone from Afghanistan;
- ❑ The Al Qaeda senior leadership is in disarray;
- ❑ Many of their planners, facilitators, logisticians are dead or have been captured;

❑ Their training facilities have been destroyed;

❑ C2 capabilities have been disrupted; and

❑ The remaining leaders are on the run.

U.S. and coalition forces have:

- ❑ Screened more than 7,500 people detained in Afghanistan;
- ❑ Conducted more than 3,500 interrogations with 2,200 individuals;
- ❑ Detained about 650 people from 44 countries;
- ❑ Screened 16,000 documents; and
- ❑ Located more than 300 weapons caches. (Courtesy of Aug. 1 U.S. Air Force Aim Points)

### AFRC strives to use volunteers

Despite an increase in the number of 90-day air and space expeditionary force, or AEF, deployments, Air Force Reserve Command's policy of seeking volunteers first to satisfy these requirements remains unchanged.

During the current AEF cycle, which ends in May 2003, the command must fill more than 800 support taskings with reservists doing two-week rotations and numerous aviation taskings with people serving various tour lengths. The cycle includes about 1,500 taskings that require 90-day commitments with no intermediate rotations. (Courtesy of August AFRC Commander's Call Topics)

## Program helps guarantee rooms

WASHINGTON — Military travelers will soon need to consider government-contracted hotels before others when traveling inside the continental United States.

The new requirement, set to begin about Nov. 1, is part of the Federal Premier Lodging Program, run by the General Services Administration. The FPLP benefits travelers by contracting with hotels in key cities where federal employees do business to guarantee a specific number of available rooms at a specific price.

"Under the per diem process, you were not guaranteed a room," said Patrick McConnell, FPLP manager. "What FPLP does is get properties to guarantee rooms, especially where we compete with corporate and leisure travel."

If a traveler feels the establishment does not meet mission requirements, finds that the FPLP hotel is full, or finds a less-expensive place to stay, he or she may book reservations elsewhere, McConnell said. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



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# SECAF reflects on past year, looks to future

WASHINGTON — The following is a message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche.



Roche

To the men and women of the U.S. Air Force:

One year ago in June, I was sworn in as your 20th secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen.

As I reflect on the year gone by, my first thoughts are with the airmen of our force who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation and the freedoms we hold dear. Remember them and their families. Their supreme sacrifice, along with the countless heroes who have gone before them, is why we live free in this great nation.

Each of you should be extremely proud of your achievements and service this past year, from combat operations and homeland defense in the war against international terrorism to your admirable and noble daily

endeavors that guarantee the readiness, health, security and morale of our fighting force. In my travels around our Air Force, I've been impressed and humbled by your ingenuity, commitment and willingness to serve. Thank you for everything you've done to make our Air Force the best the world has ever known.

Of utmost importance to me is our continued focus on warfighting, and honing the edge that enables us to remain expeditionary and responsive to the needs of our nation. The American people trust and admire what you do. They know that America's Air Force provides a full spectrum of air and space capabilities that deliver unprecedented firepower, mobility, awareness and deterrence to our joint forces. And, once again, they've witnessed first hand your truly remarkable performance during operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Through your incredible efforts in this campaign, from deploying troops and building bases to coordinating fires and engaging targets, you've again demonstrated the unrivaled skill of airmen.

While we've achieved many of our

objectives, there remains much work to be done. The fight continues, with many of you going into harm's way daily. Our ongoing missions and your unrelenting sacrifices testify to your commitment to eradicate this threat to our nation and freedom-loving people everywhere. Most important, we need to prepare and resolve ourselves to see this through to the finish, regardless of where the fight takes us.

I remain focused on developing new strategies for air and space power in this new millennium; delivering innovative and effective capabilities to the warfighters; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and transforming our acquisition processes to ensure innovation and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base.

I want to ensure we care for our people and their families through these challenging times. Communication, engaged leadership at all levels, and a genuine concern for the value of our people and their daily sacrifices are vital to building and sustaining a motivated and capable force. (*Courtesy of Air Force Print News*)

## Reserve, Guard transitional health care benefits improve

By TSgt. Tim Dougherty  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS.

"I think the number one thing a member can do upon demobilization is to ensure their information in DEERS is correct," said Col. Kathleen Woody, director of medical readiness and

programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if DEERS shows they served in support of a contingency operation such as operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

"Our Reserve and Guard members and their families have sacrificed a great deal by responding to the call to duty in support of the war on terrorism," Woody said. "We have an obligation to ensure that each individual is aware of this transitional health care benefit."

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while the reservist was on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. Reserve component or family members must actively re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the TRICARE Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) or at a local TRICARE service center. No enrollment is necessary for TRICARE Standard or Extra.