

Being a reservist requires juggling act

by MSgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Recognizing that Air Force reservists must balance military obligations with family and civilian-employment requirements, the service's senior reservist pledged to reduce unnecessary pressures.

"I want to say 'thank you' to families and employers — they make great sacrifices in order for Reserve members to participate with us and do the things we ask of them," said Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

"It's a real juggling act for the reservist, who must do the things we ask, their employers and, most importantly, their families," he said. "The sacrifices each of them

(makes) in support of that Reserve member are very much appreciated."

Although it is still too early to tell if the increased operational tempo caused by operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom will adversely effect retention, Sherrard said the Air Force Reserve is working on ways to ensure its airmen want to remain in uniform.

"What we need to do is work with each member to maximize their training opportunities in the time they have available so we don't put undue pressure and excess requirements on them," he said.

"It's important for us to make sure we do that," he said. "It helps the member in terms of achieving their training require-

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Chief of staff thanks Reserve for Operation Iraqi Freedom support

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, sent the following letter to Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Dear General Sherrard;

The men and women of Air Force Reserve Command performed superbly during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The world witnessed joint war fighting at its best and the critical role played by well-trained and well-led airmen.

Airmen from the Reserve were pivotal to the coalition's successes in the war. Our nation's military was able to achieve rapid victory because of the dedicated service of these great citizen airmen. The loyalty and courage displayed to their nation is a model for all airmen to follow.

Please relay my sincere appreciation to all the members of your command. May God bless our great Air Force and our great nation!

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force chief of staff



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — Reservists such as SSgt. Angel Degennaro, from the 301st Security Forces Squadron, Carswell Air Reserve Station, Fort Worth, Texas, must balance military obligations with family and civilian-employment requirements. (*U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Matthew Hannen*)

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General receives national award for fathers

WASHINGTON – The commander of Air Force Reserve Command joined a large, select group of men June 5 at the 61st Annual Father of the Year Awards ceremony in New York City.

Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III was one of six men this year selected as a National Father of the Year by the National Father's Day Council.

"As a father, military leader, mentor and communicator, your contributions to family and society have had an enormous influence," wrote Stuart Goldblatt, committee chairperson, in a letter to the general. "It is for these reasons you were nominated for this honor."

During the ceremony in the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel, Sherrard expressed heartfelt gratitude and acknowledged the sacrifices made by service members and their families. He accepted the award not just for himself but also for all military fathers.

"It is an honor to be recognized for the National Father of the Year award, and I proudly accept it on behalf of all military fathers," Sherrard said. "The support of family is extremely critical to military members, and this award recognizes the great support of families and communities."

Sherrard also thanked his wife, Marsha, for the support she has provided to him and their family and spoke of lessons



Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, addresses fellow National Father of the Year Award recipients and guests at the New York Marriott Marquis in New York City June 5. (Courtesy photo)

learned from his father as a young man.

Each year the National Father's Day Council selects a handful of men to represent fathers in the United States. Since 1944, 386 men have been chosen for this honor. Past recipients include presidents, senators, governors, mayors, generals, clergy, entertainers, news anchors and professional athletes. Among the recipients are Presidents Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, and Gens. Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf.

Other recipients of the 2003 National Father of the Year award are Joseph Abboud, fashion designer; Grit Young, accepting for Steve Young, retired NFL quarterback; Arnold "Woody" Woodall, heating/air conditioning executive; Patrick Ewing, retired NBA superstar; John Walsh, host of America's Most Wanted and The John Walsh TV Series; Len Berman, sportscaster and master of ceremonies; and Raymond W. Kelly, City of New York police commissioner.

The National Father's Day Council is a non-profit organization that seeks to enhance the meaning of Father's Day and to promote traditional family values. (AFRC News Service)

Awards recognize reservists, employers

The Air Force Association sponsors two awards annually to recognize the sacrifices made by reservists and their employers.

The "Citizen Airman Award" is given to an enlisted and officer member who deployed in support of current operations during Fiscal Year 2002. Selectees will be judged on accomplishments during the aerospace expeditionary force, or AEF, cycle. The position they held, their level of responsibility, and any unique accomplishments that stand out will all be considered.

The "Employer of the Year Award" is given to an employer that illustrated strong support for activation and deployment for one or more of its citizen airmen.

The Office of the Air Force Reserve, or REI, will establish a panel to review the nominations and submit to the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command for approval. Selectees will be formally recognized at the AFA Annual Convention.

Reservists receive a plaque, and employers receive an eagle trophy.

Travel expenses for employers and spouse will be covered, and reserve selectees will be unit funded.

Reservists' nomination packages should include a one page narrative of the members' contributions to the AEF or contingency. Employers' packages should include a one page narrative explaining contributions to the military member and the Air Force Reserve. A biography of the military member or employer should be included.

Packages can be mailed to CMSgt. Troy McIntosh, 12313 Manchester Way, Woodbridge, VA 22192; faxed to DSN 227-9103 or commercial (703) 697-9103 or e-mailed to **Troy.McIntosh@pentagon.af.mil**.

Nominations are due by Aug. 1.

Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

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Americans can join support team

By Denise Brown

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — “Uncle Sam Wants You” is a familiar recruiting slogan to generations of Americans. But in this case, it is an invitation for all Americans to sign up for a different kind of military operation.

Operation Tribute to Freedom, a Defense Department initiative, is a way for Americans to show their continuing support for the nation’s military men and women and share with the Defense Department the different ways in which individuals and communities are expressing this support.

“We receive calls and e-mails all the time asking, ‘What can I do to support the troops?’” said Allison Barber, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. “People want to know what they can do to help.”

Americans across the country are already involved in activities showing support for the men and women in uniform, Barber said. “If you’re flying the flag, going to a parade, writing an e-mail to the troops or visiting the DefendAmerica Web site to send a thank you to the troops, all of these activities are part of Operation Tribute to Freedom.”

Many individual groups have started their own grassroots campaigns or outreach campaigns for the troops, she said. Operation Tribute to Freedom is a way to bring these individuals, groups and companies together as part of one team.

“To join the team, just go to our Operation Tribute to Freedom Web site on www.DefendAmerica.mil, select ‘Join the Team,’ fill in your name, and tell us what you’re doing to pay tribute to the men and women of the military. Once you submit your registration to the team, you’ll be able to download an Operation Tribute to Freedom certificate, making you an official member of the team.”

The program includes a variety of suggestions on how communities and individuals can support the troops.

“We have activities and ideas that are geared for both children and adults,” Barber said. “Younger children can color a patriotic picture or send an e-mail to the troops.”

Older teens and adults can volunteer at their local Red Cross or local veterans organization, visit hospitalized veterans, or donate money to Operation Uplink for the purchase of a phone card for a service member,” she said.

The Web site also contains a selection of downloadable Operation Tribute to Freedom graphics. The graphics can be used as posters, on T-shirts or as banners, “in whatever way people want to use their imaginations,” Barber said. “And that’s the strength of Operation Tribute to Freedom.”

“Operation Tribute to Freedom is a multifaceted campaign that reaches individuals of every age, nonprofit organizations, corporate America and schools. It’s a very far reaching campaign,” Barber said.

Air Force launches campaign to thank parents of airmen

Secretary of the Air Force James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper launched a service-wide campaign May 5 to thank the parents of America’s airmen for their support of their children’s service.

The Air Force Parent Pin program encourages airmen to register on the secure Web site, www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com, where they can provide the names and addresses of up to two parents (or parental figures).

Shortly thereafter, the airmen’s parents receive personalized letters from Secretary Roche and General Jumper containing high-quality lapel pins displaying the letter “P” cradled in the Air Force symbol.

All airmen – active, Guard and Reserve – are strongly encouraged by their chain of command to register on the Web site and have pins sent to up to two recipients.

Currently, ARPC has 840 of the applicable airmen who have registered and requested Parent Pins. They join more than 83,000 other participants in the Parent Pin program nationwide.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation



of the World War II “E” flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage. The letters address recipients and airmen by name.

They are intended to communicate to parents the importance of their children’s service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents’ continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America’s airmen.

This massive effort comes on heels of

the Air Force’s highly-successful “E” Pin program, which represented the first direct-mail outreach effort from the leaders of any of the armed services to employers across America. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command airmen voluntarily submitted contact information for more than 60,000 employers, each of whom received an “E” Pin and a personalized letter from the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff acknowledging them as partners in the war effort.

Air Force leaders have received hundreds of supportive letters and e-mails from employers and airmen because of this program, and today, tens of thousands of employers are wearing Air Force “E” Pins as pledges of support for the military service of their airmen.

Both the Parent Pin and “E” Pin campaigns are elements of the Air Force’s Your Guardians of Freedom program. As families, employers and communities across the nation share the burdens of military service, it is critical that commanders at every level reach out to cultivate the relationships that form the foundation of public support for their airmen.

Core values provide solid foundation

By Lt. Col. Terry Kono
28th Operations Group

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AFP) — “You fall back to your initial training that says, ‘Hey, let’s get the job done.’”

Those were the thoughts of Lt. Col. Fred Swan when his B-1 Lancer crew received a critical targeting direction that would lead them to strike the suspected location of Saddam Hussein.

After the initial surge of excitement at the prospect of bombing “the big one,” the Ellsworth airmen relied on a foundation of sound airmanship, crew discipline, checklist procedures, knowledge of 28th Bomb Wing mission standards, and commitment to duty to achieve their objective. Without these basics, success might not have come so smoothly.

When we send our troops forward into combat, we do so with an earnest belief that their knowledge, values and commitment are the solid foundation that will endure the challenges of war. To maintain the integrity of our foundation, we must constantly affirm its strength. This applies equally to the general profession of arms, and to each of our specialties.

Unfortunately, in our high operations tempo and high-personnel-tempo military, it is easy to lose sight of the basics, to take shortcuts, and to run before we walk. Immediate gains made from bypassing the basics may ultimately be offset by losses — sometimes severe losses.

Lt. Gen. William Hobbins, the 12th Air Force commander, expressed such

a concern recently when he directed his flying wings to establish back-to-basics programs for flight training.

The number of Class A mishaps in 2003, particularly in formation procedures, identified weaknesses in air crew members’ adherence to standards — or their lack of understanding of the standards. We needed to reaffirm that we could practice what we preached by emphasizing basic airmanship and flight discipline.

Such has proven the recipe for success for our B-1 bomber crews, maintainers and support troops’ performance throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ideally, “back to basics” means we can fall back on the foundations we have strived to reinforce through a well-designed “building block” strategy. Back to basics does not mean starting from scratch every time, nor is it limited to our daily jobs.

When I took an assignment as an instructor at the Naval Academy in 1993, I began the academic year following a cheating scandal. The focus of a few students had strayed from honor to football, completely disrupting their military values.

While the foundation of honor at the academy was not completely broken, it was in disrepair from neglect. The end results were dismissals of midshipmen, significant leadership changes, and literally years of creating ethics programs and building values that should have already been in place — the basics.

Gen. Curtis LeMay’s description of



what he called our “rocks and oaks,” that is, our basics, is written on the back of “The Little Blue Book” of Air Force core values:

“I hope that the United States of America has not yet passed the peak of honor and beauty, and that our people can still sustain certain philosophies at which some miserable souls feel it incumbent to sneer. I refer to some of the Psalms, and to the Gettysburg Address and the (Boy Scout) oath.

I refer to the Lord’s Prayer, and to that other oath which a man must take when he stands with hand uplifted, and swears that he will defend his Country.”

If you keep the basics in mind everyday, your foundation will be sound and success will be sure.

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ments, and it helps the Air Force in doing our missions daily.”

That goal may require the Air Force Reserve to do business in new ways, the general said.

“(We need to) make sure we have as efficient an operation as we can so that we maximize the time a member is with us and not put undue stress on them by having them come back for additional training due to some oversight or lack of planning on our part,” he said.

Sherrard said he is also working with senior Air Force leaders to review reservists’ entitlements and ensure mobilization predictability within the air and space expeditionary force construct.

“We have just over 14,000 members still activated,” he said. “We’re working with the combatant commanders and Air Staff

to bring them home.”

Besides being concerned with reconstituting the readiness of his forces, Sherrard said he is committed to protecting Reserve airmen and their families from degraded benefits.

“We need to make certain we don’t do anything that puts them in a circumstance not befitting their service,” he said. “More importantly, we need to protect their families so we don’t have someone who loses medical coverage or has a real financial hardship as they transition back into their civilian jobs.

“What we never want to lose sight of is that our members are volunteers,” he said. “We need to do everything humanly possible to provide the requisite benefits and protections for their families as they do the things that are asked of them.”

Team to address Total-Force issues

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force is standing up a “tiger team” to address three major air reserve component, or ARC, issues considered vital to the future success of the total force.

The team, led by Brig. Gen. Jose Portela, will initially focus on income protection, medical care and changes to the implicit contract with employers. Portela is mobilization assistant to Michael Dominguez, assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and Reserve affairs at the Pentagon.

“These are topics of great importance because they affect keeping families and employers informed, happy and willing to continue their military association,” Dominguez said.

The team is being asked to define the size and scope of any problems identified in these areas as they relate to the ARC, Dominguez said.

“We will evaluate the severity of any problems that affect the mid- to long-range viability of the ARC and develop a variety of solutions,” Portela said.

These solutions will be evaluated and, once finalized, will be introduced into the appropriate legislative or policy-making forums, Dominguez said.

“There are tough problems, but our ARC airmen and the public should know that we are working hard to solve them,” he said.

According to Dominguez, these problems must be solved to ensure the continued success of the ARC amidst the dramatic changes that have occurred over the last few years.

“It’s important that the Air Force begins laying the foundation now to best protect our superb total-force team in the future,” he said.

USSTRATCOM reorganizes headquarters structure

Those passing by U.S. Strategic Command headquarters likely will not notice anything different. The same Air Force and Navy missiles point to the Nebraska sky in front of building 500’s main entrance. Electronic gates and members from the 55th Security Forces Squadron guard other entrances.

But appearances can be deceiving.

The evolution of the “new” U.S. Strategic Command continued April 20 with the initial implementation of its Full Operational Capability Headquarters organizational structure.

USSTRATCOM’s reorganization centers around five organizations – four new directorates and a Joint Force Headquarters for Information Operations. The directorates are: Global Operations; Policy, Resources and Requirements; Combat Support; and Strike Warfare.

The evolution of USSTRATCOM continued with the Jan. 10 announcement by President Bush that the command would assume responsibility of several previously unassigned mission areas: global strike; integrated missile defense; DOD integrated information operations; and command and control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Another key difference within the headquarters reorganization is that a two-star flag or general officer will fill the command’s chief of staff position. USSTRATCOM’s former Manpower and Personnel Directorate, Joint Training, Exercise and Assessments Division, and several agencies formerly with JO office codes will align under the chief of staff.

USSTRATCOM is moving from a planning-focused headquarters to a command that oversees global operations. All of the changes are designed to help USSTRATCOM efficiently meet its global mission requirements for the joint war fighter.

NPRC records requests can be made online

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans (discharged or retired), including reservists, Air National Guard members and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the Web site.

The new Web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center’s mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized, creating one less step for the customer.

Veterans and next of kin may access this application at vetrecs.archives.gov. Please note there is no requirement to type “www” in front of the web address.

Split disbursement now mandatory for military

All federal employees, including individual mobilization augmentees, must now use the split disbursement option to pay government travel card charges arising from official travel.

All expenses of official travel will be separately identified in travel claims so that payments for charges will be directly disbursed to the travel card contractor, Bank of America.

The Air Force has implemented mandatory split disbursement for all military personnel, active and reserve.

Supervisors are now required to review and sign all travel claims as per Department of Defense *Financial Management Regulation*, Volume 9, Chapter 5, para 050201F. Travel claims that fail to designate the split disbursement amount or are without the proper signatures will be returned to the traveler for correction.

If an individual is exempt from using the travel card, the travel orders will so state.

For more information, members can contact Rhonda Griggers-Evans, HQ AFRC/FMFQ, at DSN 497-1458.

Post-deployment assessment improves health care

By TSgt. David Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force surgeon general is meeting the health challenges of airmen returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom with a more vigorous, face-to-face approach.

“Health-care providers have expanded and improved existing procedures by combining a larger database of existing health information about airmen, with more detailed information collected throughout their deployment,” said Col. Deneice Van Hook, the SG’s director of operational health support.

Injuries, changes in health, environmental conditions, and other potential factors are looked at with greater scrutiny to ensure any changes are documented and assessed, she said.

“Throughout the ‘90s we have always done post-deployment health assessments, but our approach now is much more robust,” Van Hook said. “In the past, our post-deployment health-assessment questionnaire was a minimal form with six questions. The new form has 24 questions, and airmen now meet face-to-face with health-care providers to look at actual things they may have come in contact with while deployed, and to personally and privately discuss physical- or mental-health issues. It gives them a more secure feeling that somebody cares about their health.”

This aggressive approach is part of a process that spans the length of an airman’s career from accession through retirement and beyond, she said.

“The improvements in automation over the last 10 years have helped us compile personal health-care data and look at it in a better way,” Van Hook said. “It’s part of an ongoing process to improve our ability to care for airmen.

Before an airman deploys, health-care providers ensure all data

is current and that any pre-existing conditions that may preclude deployment, such as pregnancy, are identified. Airmen also complete a detailed pre-deployment questionnaire, receive a thorough medical records review, provide a blood sample, and obtain information about possible hazards that may exist at the deployment location.

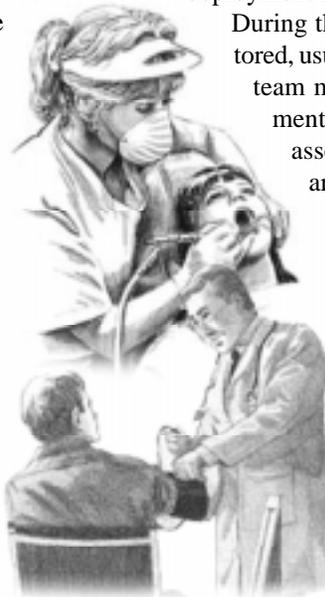
During the deployment, health and health risks are monitored, usually by a deployed preventive-medicine team. The team monitors issues such as food, water and environmental hazards. Any chemical or biological threats are assessed on the spot and adjustments for protection are made while in theater.

For example, if mosquitoes present a malaria threat, technicians can devise a plan to control the threat and provide preventive treatment. Teams are also able to adapt to changes within the deployment location or to follow-on locations.

As part of the redeployment process airmen also undergo a detailed, face-to-face health assessment. Technicians ensure a new blood sample is collected and stored for future reference. Within 30 days of return, a quality-assurance check is performed to ensure all requirements were met and the medical record is complete.

“Our focus is preventive and long term,” said Van Hook. “Our goal is to have a total health picture of the individual by capturing conditions in their workplace, in their home and at every location that person has deployed to. We take a look at how all these things interact so we can do a better job at predicting and preventing potential illnesses.”

This preventive approach to health care at work, at home and in the field represents a more long-term approach that allows health-care providers to better predict illness and keep one step ahead of the threat, Van Hook said.



Air Force releases last AFSCs from Stop-Loss

By Jackie Bing

Personnel program management

Air Force officials announced the release of all remaining Air Force specialty codes from Stop-Loss effective June 23 for the total Air Force including individual mobilization augmentees.

The release applies to all enlisted grades and officers in the grade of colonel and below.

Air Force officials authorized Stop-Loss for 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties in early March to meet national security objectives, specifically the war in Iraq. More than half of the spe-

cialties — 31 officer and 20 enlisted — were released from the program May 14.

Deployed members remain under Stop-Loss for the duration of their deployment.

Reservists in released AFSCs, who are not deployed and who have an approved expiration term of service, or ETS, or date of separation, or DOS, date of release, may be allowed to retire or separate on their original retirement or separation date but not before July 31.

Those who are not deployed and whose originally approved date of retirement has passed will be allowed to establish a new retirement date by Dec. 31.

Those who are not deployed and whose

originally approved date of retirement has not yet passed will be allowed to retire or separate on their original date or establish a new retirement or separation date by Dec. 31.

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center will work closely with program managers to adjust any newly established reassignment, separation and retirement effective dates based on the current guidance.

Members with questions can contact Retirements at DSN 926-6369 or commercial (800)525-0102, Ext. 71270; or Separations at DSN 926-6362 or commercial (800)525-0102, Ext. 71261.

Mobilization transitions to demob efforts

By Maj. Lori Ann Ryder

Chief, personnel readiness division

The world was forever changed with the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on America.

Reservists were mobilized to support operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Individual mobilization augmentees, or IMAs, were mobilized to support the active duty forces, fulfilling wartime mission needs.

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center has mobilized more than 4,200 IMAs since September 2001, which surpasses the number of IMAs mobilized for Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

At the peak in April 2002, more than



3,300 IMAs were mobilized at one time. Although the greatest population came from security forces, intelligence and support career fields, IMAs from all Air Force specialty codes played a significant role.

Additionally, more than 2,300 IMAs have supported the war on terrorism in a volunteer status since 9/11. This number combined with the 4,200 mobilized IMAs make up more than half of the total IMA population, highlighting the importance of the IMA role in support of wartime requirements.

There are a large number of demobilizations as the second anniversary for many mobilized IMAs approaches. As of July, more than 2,700 IMAs have been demobilized with about 1,300 IMAs remaining mobilized.

As the major wartime effort decreases, so does the need for augmentation from the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard. The current direction is to release all mobilized reservists by March 31, 2004, and return these personnel back to their families and their civilian lives.

With this, the utilizing organizations must provide a burndown plan to the Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Reserve Affairs, Michael Dominguez, outlining their plan to release reservists in order to rebalance the forces.

Rebalancing the force encompasses a

synergistic approach from both the active duty component and the reserve forces without the continuing need of involuntarily mobilized reservists.

Using a reserve force in the "traditional" one-weekend-a-month, two-weeks-a-year has expanded to an increased dependence on volunteerism.

IMAs are encouraged to apply for Air and Space Expeditionary Force, or AEF, rotations, and other volunteer tours on military personnel appropriations, or MPA, days.

Many IMAs participating in a volunteer MPA status are being used as "forward deployers," standing next to their active duty brethren rather than filling that member's position at home station.

IMAs who have been mobilized and subsequently demobilized can volunteer for MPA days to assist ongoing operations. Many major commands are using volunteers to support contingency operations.

Members interested in volunteering should talk to their program manager. Volunteer tours are also advertised on the ARPC Web site at arpc.afrc.af.mil, under "Career Opportunities."

IMA reservists are important to the Total Force and will continue to serve in expanded roles. Senior leaders have recently said, "IMAs definitely make the difference!"

AF tries reducing deployment discrepancies

By SSgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Today's Air Force is expeditionary, and all airmen should be prepared to deploy to support military operations worldwide, according to Maj. Gen. Timothy Peppe.

The majority of airmen arriving in an area of responsibility, or AOR, are ready to accomplish their mission, however, nearly 10 percent report for duty with some deviations to the required deployment items. Not all of them are mission-critical, but not having the current training, immunizations or proper uniforms places an unnecessary burden on commanders, said Peppe, special assistant to the chief of staff for air and space expeditionary forces.

"We want to improve those statistics and reduce the burden placed upon gaining commanders in the AOR and ensure that Air Force personnel are ready to work when they step off the plane," he said.

The AEF concept has been in place for Air Force deployments for more than five years. The requirements for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have been in place for 18 months

and five months, respectively, Peppe said. He believes a better job must be done when preparing for deployments.

"We have tremendous airmen and superb leadership," he said. "I know we can do this better."

Taking responsibility is the key to showing up fully prepared to do the job, Peppe said.

"If you are vulnerable to deploy in an AEF pair, you need to be ready to go," Peppe said. "You have to do everything possible to be prepared, whether it be uniforms, immunizations, having your will up to speed or making sure all of your ancillary training is complete. All requirements must be taken into account."

Peppe also said he believes commanders should take a look at their people before they deploy.

"Commanders are responsible for how their people depart the home station for a temporary duty assignment no matter where it is in the world," he said. "It's up to them to make sure that their people are up to speed and the (AOR-specific checklists) are followed."

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Tourism industry welcomes reservists home

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – From airlines to local auto dealerships, businesses around the United States are welcoming home reservists from deployments with discounts and free offers this year.

The tourism industry is showing the strongest support for these military deals, as theme parks announce programs.

“Several companies are saying thank you to our reservists by showering them with discounts on leisure activities,” said Phyllis Link, marketing manager for Air Force Reserve Command Services. “Most of these great deals, however, are limited to reservists on active duty and their families, so we encourage them to check with their local Air Force Information, Tickets and Tours office for details on promotions, as well as other special events.”

Link added that while some bases may not have a formal ITT office to purchase tickets, reservists should contact their local services organization for information.

Promotions reservists can take advantage of include:

Anheuser Busch's Heroes Salute

Anheuser Busch is offering reservists and their families (up to four dependents) a Heroes Salute with a free one-day admission to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks.

Reservists do not have to be or have been activated to qualify for this offer.

The offer is good through Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To obtain tickets, visit an ITT office to pick up an Operation Salute form. Take the completed form and military dependent identification card to ticket windows at the SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks to receive admission tickets. An Operation Salute form is also available online at www.4adventure.com.

For more information, call (888) 800-5447 or (800) DIAL-BUD.

Disney's Armed Forces Salute

Disney theme parks are offering activated reservists “Disney's Armed Forces Salute” with free multi-day admission.

This offer is good now through Dec. 19. To acquire an Armed Forces Salute ticket, reservists must present their valid military ID as well as active-duty orders to any Disney theme park ticket window.

If a reservist is unable to go to the Disney theme park during the offer period, the spouse may purchase up to five of these tickets one time during the offer period for family members or friends.

Walt Disney World Florida is offering a free five-day ticket to activated reservists, good for admission into the Walt Disney World theme parks, two Disney water parks, Pleasure Island and more.

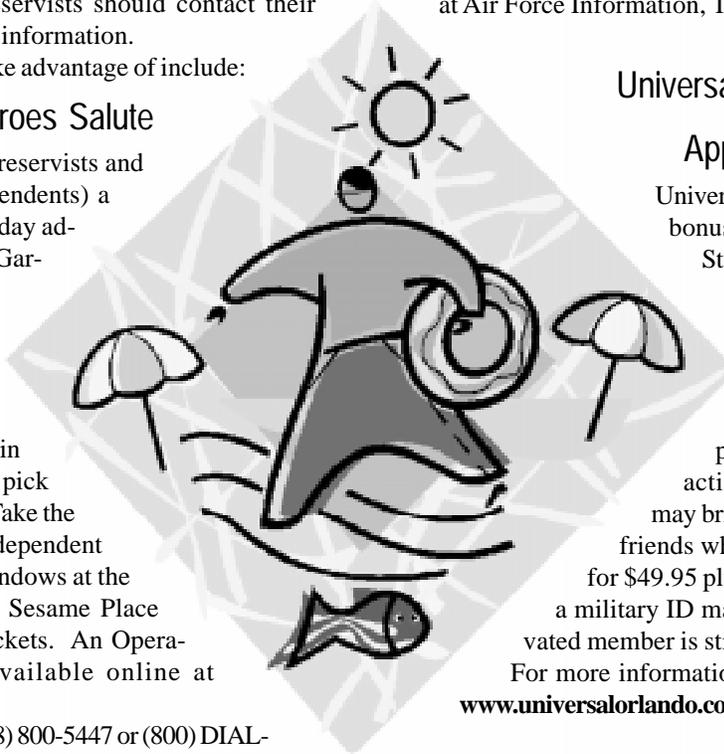
Reservists may also purchase five-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets for \$99 each (plus tax) for up to five family members or friends.

For complete details, go to www.disneyworld.com/military or call (407) 939-7424.

Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure Parks are offering a free three-day ticket to activated reservists, good for admission to both Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure Parks.

Reservists may make a one-time purchase of three-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets during the offer period for up to five family members or friends for \$39 each.

For complete details, go to www.disneyland.com/military. More information about Walt Disney Parks and Resorts is available at Air Force Information, Tickets and Tours offices.



Universal Orlando's Military

Appreciation Program

Universal Orlando is offering a five-day bonus pass that is valid for Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure, as well as a City Walk Party Pass.

The offer is in effect until Dec. 19.

To qualify, reservists must present an ID card and current activated orders. Every reservist may bring up to five family members or friends who can purchase the Bonus Pass for \$49.95 plus tax. Dependent spouses with a military ID may purchase the pass if the activated member is still overseas.

For more information, call (407) 363-8000 or visit www.universolorlando.com.

US Airways' Salute Savings

US Airways is offering a discount program for U.S. military, with special fares as low as \$79 each way, based on roundtrip purchase.

US Airways “Salute Savings” rates are available to reservists on active duty and their immediate families through government-contracted commercial travel offices throughout the United States.

The fares are valid for tickets purchased through Dec. 31 for travel completed by Feb. 12, 2004. Tickets are nonrefundable and must be purchased at least three days in advance of departure. One Saturday night stay is required, and a maximum 30-day stay is allowed. Call (800) 428-4322 for assistance.

Service officials said other businesses, including regional and local companies, are offering discounts and incentives. (*AFRC News Service*)

House, Senate eye benefits for reservists

(Editor's note: The following article is designed to keep reservists informed about pending legislation that could affect them. Reservists on duty may not lobby or urge others to speak to their congressional representatives.)



WASHINGTON — Before taking their Independence Day recess, the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services committees completed markups of their versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2004.

Members of the committees considered several provisions that could affect individual mobilization augmentees and other reservists. These provisions include unlimited use of commissaries and increases in basic pay, hostile fire and imminent danger pay, family separation allowance and hazardous duty incentive pay.

“Congressional committee markups are no guarantee an item will become law,” said Wayne Gracie, director of the Office of Air Force Reserve’s Policy Integration Directorate in the Pentagon.

“The House and Senate work out differences in bill provisions and language in conference, where provisions may be adopted, dropped or modified,” he said. “If the provision is identical in both bills, it has a greater chance of becoming law when the bill is enacted into law. The authorization process is not complete until conferencing occurs and a final version of the authorization bill is reported and voted on by both chambers and signed into law by the president.”

Bills were introduced in the House and Senate, but none were approved.

Provisions in this year’s markups include:

Unlimited commissary privileges: The Senate committee seeks unlimited use for members of the Selected Reserve and retired reservists who qualify to receive retired pay but who are not age 60, and their dependents. The House version expands the unlimited privilege to reservists in the Ready Reserve, which includes the Selected Reserve, who satisfactorily completed 50 or more points in a calendar year. Unlimited use of commissaries is currently limited to people possessing an active-duty ID card or drawing retirement pay, and their dependents.

Basic pay increase: The Senate version

authorizes an across-the-board military pay raise of 3.7 percent and higher, targeted pay raises for mid-career personnel for an average pay raise of 4.15 percent. The House of Representatives version accepts the Department of Defense’s proposed pay plan and calls for an average 4.1 percent increase with targeted increases for mid-grade and senior NCOs to enhance retention. It also proposes to give E-1s, E-2s, O-1s and O-2s raises below 3.7 percent, which is the minimum percentage in the Senate version.

Equal hostile fire and imminent danger pay for reservists on inactive duty: Both committees recommend reservists serving inactive duty for training at authorized duty locations to be paid this pay at the same \$150-per-month rate as members serving on active duty. The provision would be retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001. Reservists currently receive this pay at a rate of 1/30 for every day served in specified locations.

Increase in hostile fire and imminent danger pay: Both committees seek an increase from \$150 per month to \$225 per month. However, the House version limits the increase to service in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and the increase would expire on the date the president terminates the operations.

Increase in family separation allowance: Both committees want to increase the allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month, effective Oct. 1, 2003. However, the House version limits the increase to service in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and the increase would expire on the date the president terminates the operations.

High-tempo personnel management and allowance for extended or frequent deployments: Congress wants to pay up to \$1,000 a month to servicemembers who have been deployed for at least 401 of the preceding 730 days or deployed continu-

ously for 191 days. In the Senate version, reservists would also qualify if they are called or ordered to active duty for more than 30 days if such period begins within one year after the date on which they were released from previous service on active duty for a period of more than 30 days under a call or order to active duty. In the House version, reservists would also qualify if they serve on active duty for more than 30 days during the second or subsequent mobilization for the same contingency operation.

Reimbursement for lodging expenses: The House wants to authorize the service secretaries to reimburse certain reservists and retirees serving on active duty at locations away from their homes. The reimbursable amount would be the lesser of the lodging portion of the applicable per diem rate or the actual cost of lodging paid by the member for periods during which the member is in a leave status.

Special responsibility pay: The Senate recommends reserve component officers receive command responsibility pay at a rate of 1/30th the monthly rate for each day of duty. A maximum of 5 percent of captains and below would get the monthly rate, and a maximum of 10 percent of majors through colonels would be authorized the monthly rate.

Hazardous-duty pay for reservist demolition duty and parachute jumping: The House wants to authorize reservists who perform explosive ordnance disposal and pararescue duties in a month to be paid hazardous duty pay at the same monthly rates (not 1/30th rate) paid to members serving on active duty. The committee members reason that reservists must maintain the same qualification standards as the active force to perform explosive demolition and parachute jumping.

Standardize Ready Reserve’s annual training requirements: Members of the House committee want to reinstate one measure – 38 days per year – as the minimum for annual participation. At the present, the reserve components have more than 30 different categories of duty status, each with different participation requirements.

More information about the House and Senate marks is available on the Web at www.re.hq.af.mil/rei. (AFRC News Service)

Medical profession news

Units of assignment

An audit is underway that compares home address with unit of attachment.

ARPC will comply with Air Force Instruction 36-2115, *Assignments within the Reserve Components*, which states:

“Assigning an IMA. Normally, applicants’ place of residence should be within 100 miles or three hours one-way driving time from their training site.”

Exceptions to this policy may be considered for senior officer or senior enlisted positions attached to headquarters locations, special missions or those AFSCs that have limited training location opportunities.

Also being reviewed in this audit will be those who are currently living in the United States and attached to an overseas location.

Annual tours

Members who have not submitted for annual tour orders by May 30 each year, run the risk of not getting approval.

Air Force Manual 36-8001 *Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures*, (5.7.1) requires all reservists to have annual orders published by June 30 each fiscal year. Requests received after May 30 must have clear justification ex-

plaining why the request is being submitted after the deadline.

There is no guarantee these requests will be approved.

Members should submit requests through the Web Order Transaction System, or WOTS.

ATs are to begin on Monday, end the following Friday, and not be projected in conjunction with a holiday.

Part of the approval process will require members to have a current Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA. Only 61 percent of medical IMAs are current in their medical/dental annual review. Members with noncurrent RCPHAs should schedule one with their unit of assignment immediately.

Uniform update

Medical professionals who are planning to attend AMSUS in November should ensure they have the new service dress name tag. (See “Briefs,” Page 12, for more information.)

The mandatory wear date is Oct. 1.

Position vacancy promotions

Position vacancy, or PV, promotions are the Reserve opportunity for early officer promotion to the rank of major and lieu-

tenant colonel. There are no PV promotions to any other officer rank.

The following criteria must be met to be considered for a PV promotion.

In accordance with AFI 36-2504:

- ♦At least 50 points during last full R/R year,

- ♦Must meet time-in-grade eligibility, and

- ♦Assigned to Selective Reserve for full year before board.

In accordance with Program requirements:

- ♦Completed rank-commensurate PME,

- ♦Fulfilled fiscal year requirements (AT/IDTs), and

- ♦PV must be available in the DAFSC.

Web site Info

Members who have questions should to check out the ARPC Web site at www.arpc.afrc.af.mil. If the answers aren’t there, we want to know.

We also want to know your e-mail address. This can be the fastest way to let you know of upcoming positions, opportunities and changes.

CME Funding

CME monies continue to be very limited. Military-specific training opportunities will be prioritized.

JAG and paralegal news

Home station support

Real world situations are very dynamic making Steady State requirements very hard to predict and requirements are often last minute.

This proves to be more of a challenge to provide support to active duty legal offices with Air Reserve Component, or ARC, judge advocates and paralegals.

Senior leadership in the The Judge Advocate General’s Department Reserve has committed to making every effort to provide a minimum of 50 percent ARC manning assistance for the time requested when an active duty judge advocate or paralegal is deployed.

These are referred to as Home Station Support, or HSS, tours.

Requests can come from the reserve coordinator, senior individual mobilization augmentees, staff judge advocate, or law office manager.

Unfilled needs are posted on the Share the Wealth/Home Station Support page in WebFLITE at [aflsa.jag.af.mil/ GROUPS/AIRFORCE/MAJCOMS/ ARPC/stw1.htm](http://aflsa.jag.af.mil/GROUPS/AIRFORCE/MAJCOMS/ARPC/stw1.htm).

HSS is the most crucial mission of IMAs. All judge advocate and paralegal are encouraged to do what they can to support HSS requirements, even if it is just to serve an additional two weeks each year.

Filling these requirements gives credibility to the mission of the IMA program. HSS tours have visibility at the highest levels.

Hails and farewells

There are many personnel changes in the ARPC legal office. The new staff judge advocate, Col. Charles Hasskamp, will arrive soon.

We also brought on Dick Allan to replace Jack Happel on IMA judge advocate accessions. Some of you have been around long enough to remember Allan when he used to handle IMA judge advocate orders four years ago.

JA bids farewell to Bruce Paige and wishes him the best at his new job in the ARPC Point Credit division. TSgt. Jay Dorris now handles all IMA judge advocate orders.

And finally we bade farewell to Jim Prior upon his retirement in June.

Briefs

GWT medals not yet authorized

Recently several new awards, such as the Global War on Terrorism medals, Air and Space Campaign Medal, have been announced and are being developed.

These new awards have been advertised by several means including public news releases and newspaper articles. However, their criteria and implementation procedures have not been finalized.

Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear new awards on their uniform that are not yet fully developed and authorized by the Air Force.

The criteria for these awards are being developed at the Department of Defense and Air Force levels, and an estimated completion date has not been established.

When the criteria and implementation procedures are concluded, they will be provided to servicing military personnel flights for full implementation and will be posted on the Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site at arpc.afrc.af.mil under "Awards and decorations."

Members are advised that commercially procuring awards does not automatically authorize their use.

Virtual Military Personnel Flight

The Virtual Military Personnel Flight, or vMPF, has a wealth of information that is extremely useful to reservists. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Air Force Personnel Center's secure server from any internet capable computer at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/KM/vMPF/vMPFHelpHome.htm.

Not only can members access their current points summary or record review RIP, but they can also get a proof of service for loan applications.

Virtual Record of Emergency Data

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, replaces the DD Form 93, "Record of Emergency Data," and is updated directly on the vMPF.

The transition to the vRED is a major procedural change in the way the Air Force collects and stores emergency contact information on its members.

It is a requirement for every Air Force member, active, Guard and Reserve, to update their data as soon as possible.

Members may access vRED through

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

Individuals need to establish a vMPF account by logging on the web site and following the directions. Members need their Social Security number, pay date, date of rank and major command.

Claims for reimbursement

ARPC receives numerous Standard Form 1164s, "Claim for Reimbursement of Expenditures," from individual mobilization augmentees, or IMAs, that are incomplete and lack coordination of the program managers.

Reservists should make sure they submit SF 1164 and supporting documentation to their program manager for coordination and screening before forwarding to the orders approving official here at ARPC for approval.

Packets should include:

- ♦ Program manager coordination,
- ♦ Copy of receipt(s),
- ♦ Cost comparison/justification,
- ♦ Non-availability statements for lodging and base transportation, and

————— See *Briefs*, Page 12

Chaplain news

Wing grateful for IMA chaplain

"The most impressive performance I've seen from an IMA in 19 years of active duty" is the way the Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., wing chaplain described the four-month mobilization tour of Chaplain (Maj.) Roger Dodds.

The 49th Fighter Wing, deploying F-117A Stealth Fighter aircraft and other resources, played a major role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With two of the five active duty chaplains deployed, Dodds augmented the staff for home base sustainment, serving as the chaplain for all of the squadrons in the 49th Operations and Maintenance groups.

The wing chaplain reported that Dodds was "in the fight" after no more than 30 minutes of orientation.

Some of Dodd's contributions included:

- ♦ A creative predeployment briefing described by one colonel as "the best ever;"

♦ A "play therapy" briefing for children of deployed members;

♦ Grief-management and listening-skills training for first sergeants responding to two suicides and several tragic, accidental deaths; and

♦ A weekly self-confidence, self-defense course for spouses and children of deployed troops.

Not only did Dodds provide Holy Week worship for liturgical Protestants, but he also made Stations of the Cross available for the Catholic community when the priest was out for surgery.

At the end of his tour, commanders gave him coins, the first sergeants gave him a standing ovation, and key leaders gave him special honors for injecting vitality and energy into an overwhelmed wing.

Workshop ready

Readiness will be the keynote at the

Worldwide IMA Chaplain Service Workshop scheduled for Aug. 5-6 in Denver.

The workshop focuses on Air Force Instruction 52-104, *Readiness Guidelines for the Chaplain Service*.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter and CMSgt. David Bennett will brief the gathering Tuesday morning. Major command breakout sessions take place Wednesday afternoon, followed by a banquet featuring Chaplain (Col.) Richard Johnson, Director of Chaplain Individual Reserve Programs.

Address changes

Members with address, phone number or e-mail address changes should contact Air Reserve Personnel Center Customer Service office at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71388 or DSN 926-6528.

The Chaplain Directorate cannot submit changes for IMAs.

Briefs Continued from Page 11

♦Copy of orders showing tour completion information.

WOTS changes

Changes effective April 22 require members to select one of two travel options on the tour information page.

Members should select either "commute," indicating they are in the commuting area and will drive back and forth between the duty location and home each day, or the standard "travel" option, indicating they will be on temporary duty.

The order technicians at ARPC are responsible and final authority for constructing the travel on the order, and this information can assist them.

New options have been added to the special authorization page allowing IMAs to request using accrued leave in conjunction with their tours (dates must be added to the remarks section), or to request duty under a telecommute (justification must be added to the remarks section).

Backside of orders needed

Dobbins Pay Office reminds IMAs to make sure they provide the back of orders when faxing them with travel vouchers.

Information is referenced on the front of the order by number or letter only, while the actual remarks are contained on the back. Without both sides of the order, they cannot make an accurate payment.

There is no need to contact Dobbins to ensure faxes are received as they will be processed the same day.

New name tag required Oct. 1

Oct. 1 is the mandatory wear date for the new service dress name tag.

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

Nametags can be purchased online at www.aafes.com; click on "Military Clothing" link.

Enlisted IMAs will receive a letter from ARPC with purchasing instructions.

Discrepancies Continued from Page 7

Peppe has made sure the Air Force is doing the best job it can informing people about deployment requirements.

"We've had problems in the past because all of our checklists weren't the same," he said. "You could look in three different Air Force instructions and find slightly different checklists."

Because of this, the Air Force vice chief of staff streamlined the checklist and broke down the items into two categories – mission-critical and non-mission-critical, Peppe said.

"We didn't arbitrarily decide what was MC and non-MC," he explained. "The us-

ers, Air Force component commands, decided what an individual has to have to be functional when they show up in a given AOR. These inputs were then coordinated through the major commands before being categorized into a checklist."

The vice chief of staff's message, sent to the local personnel readiness units, also lists common discrepancies and serves as the interim deployment guidance until the instructions can be revised.

"This should help commanders and airmen focus on those items that they have to have in order to be functional the day they walk off the airplane," he said. "Air-

men and commanders can find additional information on AOR-specific requirements from the AEF Center's Web site."

The Web site is restricted for dot-mil users only.

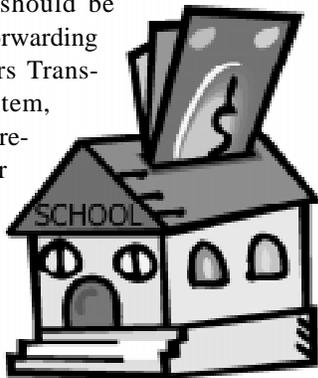
The first airmen to fall under this new guidance will be those deploying with the Blue AEF.

"We'll be looking to see how we do when those 16,000 people rotate into the different AORs," Peppe said. "Hopefully this new guidance will help both deploying airmen and the gaining commanders and eliminate the number of the discrepancies."

Career management news**School funds available**

The school tour budget, which was practically exhausted in early May, has now been refreshed with an infusion of funding from ARPC/FM.

Priority should be given to forwarding Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS, requests for mandatory upgrade or proficiency training



in-residence courses.

As virtually all these requests will be unprogrammed, members should include their entire window of opportunity (e.g. "July - December 2003, August 2003 - February 2004, etc.) for attendance.

Additionally, the WOTS requests for qualifying training must indicate "Formal School Tour" as the type of tour.

School selection board

Selection deliberations for attendees to senior and intermediate service schools begin Dec. 1 through the Air Force Reserve Central School Selection Board.

All IMA nomination packages should be at ARPC/DPAT by Aug. 31.

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