SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE
SATELLITE FLYER
VOL. 3, NO. 37 www.schriever.af.mil SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

REVIEWS

Security forces member reviews one of the recommended reads by the chief of staff.
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FEATURE

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art by Master Sgt. Jim Greeley

The U.S. secretary of defense has authorized the use of Stop-Loss measures in order to support President Bush's campaign against terrorism. The decision gives service departments the authority to retain members beyond established dates of separation or retirement Local military personnel flights have more information regarding Stop-Loss.

Review period begins for critical career fields

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The secretary of defense has authorized the use of Stop-Loss measures in order to support President Bush's campaign against terrorism, Air Force officials at the Pentagon said Sept. 20.

The decision, which gives service departments the authority to retain members beyond established dates of separation or retirement, was made by Donald H. Rumsfeld on Sept. 19, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy for the Air Force.

"The purpose of this action is to meet mission requirements in support of Operation Noble Eagle and any follow-on operations regarding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the nation," she said.

Those attacks, in which hijackers flew airliners into New York's World Trade Centers, in addition to the Pentagon, killed thousands of Americans and sent shockwaves throughout the world. In a Sept. 20 address to Congress, President Bush responded to the attacks by essentially declaring war on the world's network of terrorism.

As a result, as many as 50,000 reservists — including people in each branch of service — have been called to active duty in recent days. Title 10 of U.S. Code permits the president to enact Stop-Loss measures when such a call-up takes place, Middleton said.

"Title 10 permits the president to suspend any provision of law relating to promotions, retirements and separations during any period when members of any reserve component are on active duty under involuntary mobilization authorities," she said.

Middleton said that the Air Force will employ a "total force approach" to capitalize on the unique composition of each force element, including active duty members, Guard and Reserve.

Capt. Amy Anderson, chief of retirement and separation policy for the Air Force, said the key will be to ensure the service retains the critical skills needed for mission requirements. At least for the short-term future, the policy will affect all bluesuiters.

"The initial Stop-Loss period for all Air Force specialties will be for at least 30 days," she said. "All retirement, separation or component transfer actions will be suspended until termination of Stop-Loss, unless an exemption is applicable or waiver is granted. This (Air Force Specialty Code) list will be revised and made available to the public as requirements are validated."

A few exceptions will apply, Anderson said.

"This suspension does not apply to the mandatory separation or retirement of personnel because of disabilities, or hardships," she said. "But, officers being separated due to nonselection to captain, major or lieutenant colonel will not be exempted."

The captain added that separating or retiring members who, as of Sept. 22, have an approved effective date on or before Oct. 1, or who had made arrangements to ship household goods on or before Oct. 1, are exempt from Stop-Loss. In addition, those people serving an overseas unaccompanied assignment where the tour length is 15 months or less, and who will retire or separate upon tour completion, are also exempt.

Contact Master Sgt. Tim Kelly, military personnel flight, at 7-5335 for additional information regarding Stop-Loss implementation.

Will patriotism still be popular tomorrow

Staff Sgt. Mike Dodge
50th Space Wing Plans & Programs

I spoke to a friend the other day that was on the hunt for an American flag. He had been to numerous stores within Colorado Springs, but he kept coming up empty. He absolutely could not believe he couldn't find a flag anywhere; I couldn't believe he didn't already own one.

It seems these days, everywhere you turn, you will see some form of the American flag. You will see them hanging on houses, waving from car antennas, pinned to lapels, etc. My question is, where were they September 10th, or before then? If you are one of the individuals that don't own an American flag, and can't seem to find one anywhere, ask yourself one question, "why should I own the Stars and Stripes?"

A store in New England that specializes in American flags and banners sold out in a single day; the owner reported that he sold more American flags in the day following the World Trade Center bombing, than all of last year...and then some. Amazing, isn't it. I guess it takes such a tragedy to remind the country how blessed we are to be citizens of the United States, and what our flag symbolizes.

I read an article in a major sports magazine a few weeks ago that stated the singing of the Star Spangled Banner was "over-rated", and is over played. I wonder if the writer of this article still has a job today. The sad thing is, a lot of people shared his view, and I can understand why. The words of our national anthem have been slurred or sang incorrectly by celebrities before thousands of people in packed sports arenas, and a good example of this was the embarrassing rendition spouted out by comedienne Roseanne Barr. My suggestion to everyone is to find the lyrics and actually read them, there is real meaning found in our anthem, and believe it or not, nowhere will you find the words "play ball" anywhere.

The majority of the men in my family served their country in one way or another, and held our nation's symbols near and dear. I remember the flagpole that stood tall on my grandmother's front lawn. There wasn't a day that my Uncle Jimmy, a Korean War Veteran, didn't raise the flag as the sun rose, and lowered it as the sun fell. Not once did he let the flag touch the ground, not even on the windiest of days. I guess he looked at the flag and his country differently than most. When he died, the symbol he held so dear was laid on his casket, as it was when two of his brothers passed on years earlier.

The last time our country rose to its feet as a whole was during WWII. Tom Brokaw called Americans that endured that war, the "Greatest" generation. How will we be remembered when this time in our life passes and we get back to an actual state of "normalcy?" I guarantee the people of New York City and Washington D.C. will never forget, and maybe they should be given the title of the next "Greatest" generation.

If you are proudly displaying an American Flag, and a tear forms in the corner of your eye during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, I applaud you. For those of you that are finally realizing the great importance of our nation's symbols, I applaud you also. Patriotism gives us the strength to rise up and overcome any obstacle our nation faces. Just think how much greater our country would be if we kept the patriotic fires burning for eternity.

Feedback

Ensure it's a two way street

Col. David Warner
50th Communications Group Commander

As the kids head back to school and you settle back into the daily work routine, I hope you can reflect back on your summer and can conjure up memories of exciting vacations, friendly visits and loads of family time. The Warners had a great summer, filled with camping trips, family reunions and lots of time to relax. For our camping trip, we took advantage of living out west by traveling to Yellowstone National Park. As CINCPLANNER in our household, I got our family van in the shop for a "check-up," procured the best map, scoped out a great route and gathered up all of the provisions necessary for a great camping adventure. The one thing I neglected to check out was the weather forecast for Wyoming...I didn't think I needed to bother since it was June for crying out loud! Needless to say, I was extremely surprised when our campsite received a good dumping of 10" of snow and suddenly looked like a scene out of a "Winter Wonderland"-I must say, I looked pretty silly building a snowman in shorts and sandals. While I still had a good camping experience and escaped any permanent injuries, I still catch plenty of grief from my family.

Now you're probably wondering what a poorly planned trip to Yellowstone has to do with feedback. If you'll indulge me, I'll attempt to tie it together. I'm sure all of you are familiar with, and have either received or given feedback at one time or another. I would venture to guess that most of you see these sessions as "one-way," where the boss provides the subordinate with their expectations and then provides an update on whether or not they've hit the target. These sessions are critical to shape us professionally and to ensure we're on track. However, I would tell you that, if you're not prepared to ask some key questions during your feedback session, you could end up in a "pile of snow" like I did. If I had been smarter during my camping prep time, I would have thought to get that valuable feedback I needed on the weather and could have avoided the "feedback" I got from my family.

To emphasize my point, a few months back, I had the pleasure of seeing one of my airman graduate from Airmen Leadership School. The speaker that evening talked about a feedback session he had with his boss many years back. During this initial feedback session, after his boss had laid out his expectations, the supervisor turned the tables and asked the then airman what he, as the supervisor, could do for him. The young airman thought about it and said that he had thought about competing for senior airman below the zone. The supervisor then crafted a plan to help the airman achieve this goal...the end result-the airman was selected for senior airman below the zone! That speaker was our one and only Chief Master Sgt. Vance Clarke.

With this story as a backdrop, let me point out some key factors for supervisors and subordinates as you go into a feedback session. Supervisors set the tone during all feedback sessions and must take the opportunity to challenge their folks. Once you've laid out your expectations for their job performance, ask them what you can do for them. Challenge them to set goals-PME, education, award programs, personal goals, etc. Be honest with them and let them know where they stand and map out a strategy on how they can improve. If you're on the receiving end of feedback, be ready to discuss your goals-lay out your expectations. In other words, what do you want to have accomplished when your tour at Schriever is complete? Do you want to go to school and get your CCAF, bachelors, masters, etc; do you want to compete for quarterly awards; do you want to be the best airman, company grade officer, etc.? During mid-term feedback, reassess where you are and what mid-course corrections are needed.

While I can't guarantee that every feedback session of that nature will turn every airman into a chief master sergeant or a lieutenant into a general, I can assure you it will communicate to our folks that we are concerned about their future growth and progress. So, as you prepare to give or receive feedback, take the time to ask the tough questions. Make your feedback session a two-way street. This will create an atmosphere of honesty and openness, leading all of us down a path of excellence! If you take the time to do your homework, you'll ensure you don't end up out in the cold, unprepared, like I did.

Carpool spaces for swing, mid shifters?

Q: I have a question concerning the policy regarding use of carpool parking. In the past mid and swing shift workers could use the carpool parking area without having a carpool pass. They could park there between the hours of 1500 and 0700. Now if you park there during these hours you get ticketed. This was a convenience for our mid and swing shift workers and I'm not sure why the policy was changed. Once again, this makes a big difference during inclement weather.

A: Thank you for the opportunity to address Schriever's carpool parking policy. The Security Forces conducted a week-long survey to determine the use of reserved carpool parking during all shifts (0600-1400, 1400-2200, and 2200-0600). The results showed less use by workers on swings and mids than day workers. However, we have decided to add 13 additional parking carpool spaces to help shift workers. The spaces will be located in the northwest parking lot, identified by a sign indicating reserved for carpool, 6 a.m. - noon. These spaces would still be available to carpoolers, but then open to anyone after noon, which would accommodate arrival for shift change briefings. If you have additional questions contact Senior Master Sgt. David Lycan, operations superintendent, at 7-2077 or Capt. Chad Hazen, operations officer, at 7-5622.

SCHRIEVER AFB EDITORIAL STAFF

COL. LARRY JAMES, 50TH SPACE WING COMMANDER

Satellite Flyer editorial staff:

Ed Parsons, *Chief of Public Affairs*
Staff Sgt. Steve Horton, *NCOIC, Public Affairs*
Tech. Sgt. Kate Rust, *Chief, Internal Information*
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Thibault, *Editor*

The Satellite Flyer is published by Gowdy Printcraft Press, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Schriever Air Force Base and the 50th Space Wing. This Commercial Enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Satellite Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.
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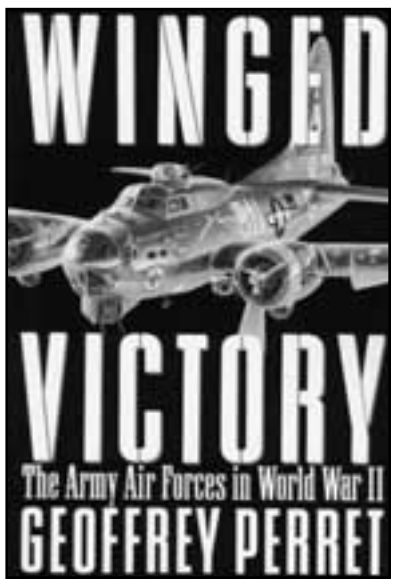
Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 50th Space Wing Public Affairs office. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to Air Force policy and Associated Press style. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Paid advertising is accepted by the publisher at 634-1593.

Deadline for all stories is noon Thursday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Submissions can be dropped off to the Public Affairs office, Bldg. 210 Rm. 316; faxed to 567-5306; e-mailed to flyer@schriever.af.mil; or mailed to 210 Falcon Pkwy. Ste. 2102, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., 80912-2102. Refer questions to the Satellite Flyer staff at 567-5041.

Sergeant reviews chief of staff reading list book



Master Sgt. Daniel Hogan
50th Security Forces Squadron

"Winged Victory" tells the tale of airpower from infancy to ultimate victory. The story gives us insight into the men and thought processes involved in decisions that shaped our organization.

Key events surrounding World War II's historical moments are highlighted throughout this book.

From the formation of the reconnaissance squadrons led by men like Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, the author describes the trials and tribulations the leaders of airpower had to endure to prepare the country for future air ,warfare. The task at hand was to convince influential civilian leaders as well as some of the great military minds, that money was needed for equipment, manpower, and training. For some it involved sacrificing their careers for what they thought was right; for others, their lives.

Paradigm shifts incite resistance to change. A new way of waging warfare and training warriors had to be developed and perfected. The chapters prior to WWII do a good job of recounting the struggles of the Army Air Corps. First, confidence of the people had to be won and then pressure could be applied politically to make progress in the areas that needed improvement.

Commanders and pilots were encouraged to make and break world records as fast as they safely could. Funding and equipment were the ultimate goals. The senior military leaders of the day envisioned air support for ground troops. Air leaders had an immense task convincing Army and Navy leaders that there was a better way to utilize air assets. Demonstrations were conducted and wisely set up for success instead of failure. Turf wars were fought between the Navy and the Army Air Corps as well. But with the right leadership, the Army Air Corps evolved into a warfighting power, taking the battle to the deepest redoubts of the Axis, paving the way for ground gains. When it was all over, the Allies victorious, it was time for our leaders to reflect on what worked and why. They reached a consensus that a separate, independent air force was needed to conduct future warfare successfully. Thus, the United States Air Force was born.

WW II brought out great courage in men and highlighted our strengths as warriors. Warriors such as Tyndall, Ent, Spaatz, Doolittle, Eaker, Wurtsmith, LeMay, Benjamin Davis, and of course, General Henry "Hap" Arnold. His pivotal role is well illustrated; his strength of will alone overcame many obstacles. He let men make mistakes, but this was war and the mistakes had to be few because they cost lives. It was amazing how the leaders he selected to positions of ultimate trust were based on his acquaintance with them years earlier as captains and majors. His impressions of them stuck in his mind and when it became time to fill important positions, he selected them based on their strengths and weaknesses. Take a drive through Peterson AFB after reading; it will never be the same again. Just looking at the street and building names reminds us of our service heritage. If you ever were curious why a base or street was named after a person, this book will hold special interest for you. Our Air Force core values began here, with these men.

I would be remiss if I did not attempt an analogy between this story and SPACECOM now.

Although names have changed, we have leaders today going through the same steps our military forefathers did over 60 years ago. Re-read the first two paragraphs of this article, substitute "Space" for "Air". Imagine in your mind where Space is now and compare it with where airpower was back then. Where do you think we are? Are there lessons to be learned from this book that can be applied today? I certainly think so, and highly recommend this book for history buffs as well as airmen curious about their military roots. It reads easy and has photographs to highlight key events and people. I happened upon it while on leave and decided to give it a shot, a decision I won't regret. See you at the library.

Relief act protects servicemembers

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — For people in the U.S. armed forces, there is no greater responsibility than providing the nation's defense. It takes precedence over all other obligations.

That fact, coupled with ongoing operations in support of President Bush's campaign against terrorism, has led Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to institute the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, effective Sept. 24.

Enacted by Congress in 1940, the act is designed to protect military people from certain legal obligations while providing the nation's defense.

The act provides assistance to members during legal proceedings and with meeting financial obligations. Military service often hampers peoples' ability to protect their rights, said Maj. William Youngblood, reserve judge advocate, Air Force legal assistance division at the Pentagon.

"The purpose of the SSCRA is to strengthen the defense of the United States by suspending enforcement of some civil liabilities so servicemembers can devote their entire attention to defense," he said. "It's beneficial for every servicemember to be aware of the law's general provision so they'll know when they are involved in a situation and may be protected."

Youngblood said the law applies only to full-time active-duty people, including the activated reserve component. It provides five types of protection for financial obligations. They are:

— Postponing collection actions on any civil obligation;

— Prohibiting repossessions and foreclosures without court permission;

— Setting a maximum interest rate of 6 percent on all pre-service obligations;

— Allowing servicemembers to terminate leases with 30 days prior notice; and

— Permitting the Veterans Affairs to guarantee life insurance premiums in order to continue coverage.

"Creditors do not have an affirmative duty to find out whether SSCRA might apply when a loan or other obligation is not repaid in a timely matter," Youngblood said. "In order to take advantage of these protections, the servicemember must advise the court or creditor that SSCRA protections are sought. It is also important to remember that none of these protections apply if the obligation is incurred after entering active duty."

However, the relief act provides additional protection for obligations arising both before and after entering active duty.

These include the postponement of legal actions until such time as the service member is able to return and adequately protect his or her interests. To obtain this protection, the court must be advised of the active-duty commitment and find the service member's participation has been materially affected. Youngblood said it is best to contact a legal assistance attorney before asking a court to stay in a proceeding of this nature.

The act also prohibits courts from entering default judgments against active duty servicemembers unless the party filing the action follows specific guidelines set forth in the statute.

Youngblood said landlords with military tenants also have restrictions. A service member who enters a lease for less than $1,200 a month cannot be evicted for up to three months without a court order.

Other protections include:

— The relief act extends the time when a service member may file suit or have suit filed against them by eliminating the time served on active duty. Youngblood said because legal actions are filled with pitfalls, it's best to speak with an attorney before allowing any period of limitation to expire.

— Active-duty people cannot be taxed other than by their state of domicile. This prohibits multiple states from taxing people.

— Powers of attorney are extended for military people missing in action.

— Health insurance companies are required to reinstate any coverage in effect the day prior to active duty that was terminated during military service for both the person and their family.

Youngblood said it is important for people to know that creditors and insurance companies cannot initiate adverse credit ratings, deny credit or take any adverse financial action based solely on the fact that a military person invoked the protections of SSCRA.

For more information, contact the legal assistance office at 7-5050.

Space command postpones Order of Sword ceremony

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - The Order of the Sword ceremony to honor Gen. Ed Eberhart, the commander of Air Force Space Command, has been postponed until Jan. 25, 2002.

The change is due to the travel restrictions, work schedules and security concerns for many of the attendees created from the recent terrorist attack to the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Money collected from ticket sales will be returned as soon as possible. Tickets for the January ceremony will go on sale a few months before the event.

"We want the Order of the Sword to be first-class and fun event," AFSPC Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Estrem said. "Hopefully, after the New Year, the world's events will be more conducive to honoring General Eberhart in the manner he so much deserves." (*Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)*

Phone numbers, web links offer answers 'return to duty' questions

Tech. Sgt. Dawn Hart
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — Toll-free numbers and web links have been activated to provide information to former Air Force members — hundreds of whom have e-mailed or called asking about coming back to serve their country.

Recently separated and retired active-duty, Guard and Reservists can contact specific places, officials said. Others, including civilians who may be unsure of their eligibility to return to service, can call the Air Force Personnel Center Call Center from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central time.

"Policies about returning to duty are being evaluated at the highest levels," said Col. Dale Vande Hey, director of personnel program management here. "Whether we can take people up on their patriotic offers to serve really depends on a number of factors," he said.

"And, of course, policies and procedures could change," said Vande Hey. "So everyone interested should still call in — even if right now they think they aren't eligible to re-up."

There are several phone numbers and web sites now available.

Recently separated personnel:

- Former enlisted and officers interested in re-entering the Air Force must have been re-enlistment eligible upon separation and must meet other prior service qualifications for re-entry. Those who want to return to active duty should contact their local recruiter. The Air Force Recruiting Service web site, www.airforce.com, can assist people in finding local recruiters. People can also call 1-800-423-USAF (1-800-423-8723).

Aviators:

see QUESTIONS, page 10.

Thrift savings: nest eggs not goose eggs

2nd Lt. Virgil Magee
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.— Military members looking to create their own retirement nest egg can use their own money to ensure their retirement years are golden.

The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of 2001 allows servicemembers to participate in the government-sponsored Thrift Savings Plan.

The TSP is a savings and investment program that allows airmen to contribute up to $11,000 in 2002 or up to $40,000 for those serving in a combat zone or hazardous duty area.

The TSP offers airmen the same type of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under "401(k)" plans. Money invested in the TSP comes from pre-tax dollars and reduces taxable income. Investments and earnings are not taxed until they are withdrawn.

Airmen can diversify their TSP investment among five different investment funds: the government securities fund, the fixed income index fund, the fixed income index fund, the common stock index fund, the small capitalization stock index fund and the international stock index fund.

Participation is optional and not automatic. Servicemembers who want to sign up or change their investment levels generally should do so during one of the two designated open seasons, May 15 - July 31 and Nov. 15 - Jan. 31. Airmen will also have the flexibility to contribute as little as 1 percent or as much as 7 percent of basic pay plus any amount of incentive, special or bonus pay.

TSP earnings grow tax-free until withdrawn. But it is not like a checking or savings account. The Internal Revenue Service imposes stiff penalties on most withdrawals if a servicemember makes a withdrawal prior to the year they turn 59 1/2.

Unlike the military retirement system, members contribute from their own pay to the TSP. Whatever they contribute and the growth from those contributions belong to them. So even if the servicemember does not serve 20 or more years they keep all their savings. Additionally, members who decide to leave the military before retirement can join the Ready Reserve and continue their contributions.

The secretary of the Air Force may designate critical specialties for matching contributions. Members serving in these specialties who agree to serve on active duty for six years will be eligible for matching contributions.

The matching contributions apply only to amounts contributed from basic pay. Matching contributions apply to the first 5 percent of pay per pay period. Your contributions are matched dollar for dollar for the first 3 percent and 50 cents per dollar for the next 2 percent.

Additional TSP information can be obtained on the Internet at www.tsp.gov.

(Air Force Space Command News Service)

Young Tarheel's letter to Pentagon sparks lesson in heroism

photo by Rudy Williams

Army Col. J. Edgar Wakayama poses with the letter written by Kayle Madren of Elon College, N.C. The fifth-grader wrote calling the rescue and recovery teams at the Pentagon "heroes." The letter inspired Wakayam to respond to the girl.

Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Fourteen days of not finding anyone alive at the Pentagon crash site has caused hopes for a miracle to wane. But a letter from a 12-year-old North Carolina student for several days lifted the spirits of all who read it, particularly Army Col. J. Edgar Wakayama.

Kayle Madren, a fifth grader at Altamahaw Ossipee Elementary School in Elon College, N.C., wrote:

Dear Heroes,

Thank (you) for being our heroes. I hope you find lots of people. Please save the people that are still alive. Thank you for being our heroes.

Be Careful,

Kayle

Dave and Shirley Hall, who are preparing and serving food at "Camp Unity" for workers at the Pentagon crash site, gave the letter to Wakayama while he was eating lunch. The couple is with the "North Carolina Baptist Men," a group of men and women who help the Red Cross feed people during disasters.

Wakayama, an Army reservist on a one-year tour of duty in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, was so taken by the letter that he wrote back to the girl. He wrote, in part:

"Your kind words truly lifted my spirit during this most difficult time in our country's history. Thank you very much for taking time to write this heartwarming letter.

"The mood here is sad," Wakayama continued, "but the spirit of people is high because of the many letters received by students like you. Please pray for the families and friends of those who died and are injured, physically and emotionally, and for our president and the nation."

During a telephone interview, Kayle's parents, Tena and Lester Madren, expressed both surprise and pride. "I didn't think she would realize what was going on, but I guess watching the news on television brought her feelings out," her father said. "That's her true heart coming out."

Dear Heroes,
Thank (you) for being our heroes. I hope you find lots of people. Please save the people that are still alive. Thank you for being our heroes.
Be Careful,
Kayle

Kayle said her whole class wrote letters to the Pentagon concerning their feelings about the hijacked airliner that slammed into the building Sept. 11. The fifth grader said she thinks people at the Pentagon are heroes "because they're still looking for people, helping them and protecting us."

"Kayle, we are all heroes," Wakayama wrote in his letter. "Heroes are common people who rise during difficult times and yet somehow manage to overcome tragedy. Heroes are students like you who study hard, listen to their parents and teachers, and become good citizens."

The colonel sent Kayle a diagram of the crash site, a Pentagon shoulder patch and the eagle rank insignia of a colonel. "Tell your school friends that we all appreciate the kind letters, because not many of us can answer all the letters," he said. "God bless you, your family, your school and America."

SMC brings new look to AFSPC

Hap Parker
Space and Missile Center Public Affairs

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. - On Oct. 1, the Space and Missile Center here, aligns under Air Force Space Command, bringing the acquisition and operational worlds of U.S. Air Force space assets under one umbrella for the first time.

Through the realignment, AFSPC gains 1,488 military members and 2,290 civilian employees at the SMC, which handles more than $56 billion in space assets.

AFSPC commander, Gen. Ed Eberhart, said combining space acquisition and operations functions is an important part of the "transformation" of military space, as envisioned by the recent Space Commission report.

"For example, the same people who acquire our satellites may later be flying those satellites," he said. "This closer-working relationship will benefit the entire life cycle of a space system. Most importantly, blending these communities will grow space leaders who can better understand and translate technical and operational requirements into the world's premier space systems."

From their campus-like setting at Los Angles AFB, located in El Segundo, three miles southwest of Los Angeles International Airport, SMC employees research, develop and purchase military space systems. It is from this administrative hub that military space requirements and contract funding and management are funneled through individual system program offices.

Controlling the reigns of this science and engineering organization is the commander, Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold. He is the enterprise manager responsible for cradle-to-grave acquisition of military space systems.

"I'm a strong advocate for space use," he said. "The development of revolutionary space capabilities is on the horizon. Since SMC is the center of excellence for space and missile acquisitions, we consider ourselves on the tip of the spear for the development of systems which provide these revolutionary capabilities.

"Just think about it. We are living in the most challenging times of military space. From medium- to heavy-lift rockets and boosters to satellites and orbiting spacecraft, it all starts here. This center buys and deploys the military space systems that provide warfighting capabilities to our nation and allied forces."

The SMC, through a $5.8 billion annual operating budget, manages a multitude of current and future space systems. At any given time, there is anywhere from 15 to 19 different defense space programs in the works.

Chief among these programs is the internationally known NAVSTAR Global Positioning System. This constellation of satellites provides highly accurate three-dimensional position, velocity and time to a wide variety of U.S. and allied field forces as well as navigation data to civil and commercial users worldwide.

MILSATCOM is a space-based communications system whose satellites support global, joint-service military operations. The Defense Meteorological Satellite Program provides global visible and infrared cloud cover and other specialized data to military operational commands and high priority programs.

The Space-Based Laser project aims to demonstrate the capability of lethally intercepting a ballistic missile in its boost phase. The Airborne Laser Program is a flexible airborne, high-energy system with the capability to acquire, track and destroy theater ballistic missiles during their powered boost phase of flight.

The latest in launch technology is the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, coming on board in mid-2002. This standardization of launch systems reduces the cost of space launch by 25 percent. Meanwhile, the Titan, Atlas and Delta families of launch vehicles continue the access to space for medium and heavy military and national payloads.

Also at SMC is the Space-Based Infrared System Program office, designing a infrared space surveillance system to replace the 30-year-old Defense Satellite Program, which has provided the "eyes in the sky" of early missile detection and warning. *(Air Force Space Command News Service.)*

photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Thibault

▲ The flag detail marches off after folding the U.S. flag during the retreat ceremony honoring firefighters and police officers who died in the line of duty in New York City.

The Schriever Top-3 and the 50th Civil Engineer Squadron stand at parade rest during the POW/MIA Recogntion Day/Memorial Retreat Ceremony, Sept. 20. ▶

Dr. Fred Kiley, author of "Honor Bound," a book that chronicles the lives of POW's in Southeast Asia, talks with retired Tech. Sgt. Jasper Page, a POW during the Vietnam War. The two, along with Newt Heisley, designer of the national POW/MIA flag, and Gil Turley, a POW during World War II, and his wife, Eula Mae, were guests of the wing during the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony Sept. 20.

Day of remembrance

Nat'l Recognition Day Ceremony honors POWs, MIAs, firefighters, police officers

2nd Lt. Jeremy Eggers
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

"You are not forgotten."

This statement—simple, to the point, and yet very powerful—runs across the bottom of the National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag. In the past, that statement has unified a group of hundreds of thousands of veterans and others dedicated to finding those who set out on missions and were never heard from again. They hang on to a hope that somewhere, someplace, there may be MIAs who are still alive, and they will not rest until all MIAs are accounted for, someway, somehow.

The are many parallels that exist between the POW/MIA community and the community of firefighters and police officers—and all Americans—after the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Those parallels were the motivation behind conducting a POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony here Sept. 20 in conjunction with a retreat ceremony dedicated to those firefighters and police officers who either died or became MIAs while saving lives in New York City.

Gil Turley, a former navigator/bombardier in the Army Air Corps during World War II and POW from November 1944 to May 1945, was the guest speaker for the ceremony. He told many anecdotes from his time in the military and as a POW. A graphic realization struck in the minds of many when Turley said he weighed about 150 pounds when he was captured and he was a mere 90 pounds when he was liberated by Russians six months later.

Turley's message at the end, eerie with a strong dose of realism: "I'm afraid we're going to start seeing a new generation of POWs and those declared MIA. But, it's the price we have to pay for the freedom we enjoy today." Thousands of military men and women will be involved in Operation Enduring Freedom, the mission aimed at eradicating terrorism.

Other ceremony guests were retired Tech. Sgt. Jasper Page, a POW during the Vietnam War; Dr. Fred Kiley, author of "Honor Bound," a book that chronicles the lives of POWs in Southeast Asia; and Newt Heisley, designer of the national POW/MIA flag.

"It's terrific to see such a great turn out for this ceremony," said Heisley. Hundreds turned out for the ceremony, to include members of the Schriever Top-3 and the 50th Civil Engineer Squadron, who comprised a formation commanded by Master Sgt. Tim Kelley, 50th Mission Support Squadron.

"Everyone has truly come together recently," said Page. "It's an honor to be here."

Members of the Schriever Fire Department and 50th Security Forces squadron comprised the flag detail for the retreat ceremony. Prior to the ceremony's beginning, both organizations set up memorials to the fire fighters and police officers who died in New York City.

There was a somber attitude among all who attended the ceremony as they remembered those who served past and present and those who died in the recent attacks against America. But, there was also an attitude of great resolve present as members of the 50th Space Wing showed their will to continue with the mission and to win the fight against terrorism.

At Schriever's POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony and Memorial Retreat Ceremony, members of the 50th Security Forces Squadron set up this memorial to the police officers who died in the line of duty in New York City during the terrorist attacks there.

The Schriever Air Force Base Fire Department set up this memorial to the firefigthers who died while working to save lives in the World Trade Center. The fire department conducted retreat ceremonies from Sept. 17-21 to honor the firefighters who died in the recent terrorist attacks against the United States. During the memorial retreat ceremony, the firefighters teamed up with the security forces, who were honoring fallen police officers.

The flag detail, comprised of members of the Schriever Air Force Base Fire Department and 50th Security Forces Squadron, lower the U.S. flag during a retreat ceremony honoring the firefighters and police officers who died in the line of duty in New York City. The retreat ceremony was held in conjunction with the wing's POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony.

Contracting officer has 'dream job'

courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Raja Panchal, contingency contracting officer for Operation NORTHERN WATCH, compares his duties at his deployed location to those here.

Senior Airman Chad Hackney
Operation NORTHERN WATCH Public Affairs

So the Air Force pays you to shop all day?

"Pretty much," said Staff Sgt. Raja Panchal, contingency contracting officer for Operation NORTHERN WATCH.

He has what many would consider to be a dream job. Dressed in civilian clothes, he departs Incirlik daily, along with Marine Cpl. Nazim Arda, Turkish linguist, to ferret out the best deals in the local community for items the coalition needs.

"I go out into the local area and shop for the supplies and other things that we need here to make the ONW mission happen," he said.

In fact, Panchal is the "go-to guy" responsible for acquiring anything that cannot be found in base supply, ranging from cell phones, computer equipment, secure fax machines, shredders, and yes, even something as simple as bottled water. He said while others might envy the shopping he does, they likely wouldn't envy the other parts of his job, like the countless hours of product and vendor research and the paperwork and accounting that must accompany each purchase.

Another part of Panchal's job entails getting the best bang for each buck of the coalition's money he spends. He said this is where the research comes in. To get good deals he said he also has to shop around, compare prices, pit vendors against one another to compete for contracts and, of course, haggle. For instance, Panchal recently worked out a deal with a different supplier to get ONW's bottled water cheaper than in the previous contract, resulting in nearly $70,000 worth of savings annually.

He said he also has to keep a close daily watch on the currency conversion rate. A fluctuation in the market value of Turkish Lira will affect the prices of vendors' goods and services. He said even a small change in the value of TL can greatly increase or decrease the price of a more costly product or contract.

"Being a contracting officer here is a lot more exciting than being one back home (at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.)," he said. "I'm responsible for more here than I am at home. Here in a real-world mission, I'm responsible for procuring whatever the Combined Task Force needs, while at home I often sit behind a desk and oversee contracts."

He said to maximize his time and energy, he often relies on civilian Turkish acquisition specialists off the base, whom he affectionately calls "gophers," to help with the research. "They handle the legwork and busywork of finding some of the items I need to buy because that's what they do all day long for their companies anyway," Panchal said. "They already have their own contacts, and I get what I need faster than I could on my own. I recently cut the lead time on a purchase for the communications directorate here from an average of 27 days to 14 days just by networking with them."

He said the job does have its perks. Besides getting to wear civilian clothes to do his Air Force job, he said there is another benefit that others might not consider at first. He said he enjoys the fact that his job allows him to blend in with locals in Adana and truly learn about Turkish culture first-hand.

"Doing my job, I get to mix with the Turkish people a lot more closely than probably anyone else on the base," Panchal said. "I get to see the local culture a lot closer than just what people see in the alley. I learn more about the people in Adana and Turkey than many others do on the base. Plus, I'm good with languages, so I pick it up pretty fast."

> *"Being a contracting officer here is a lot more exciting than being one back home (at Schriever Air Force Base)."*
>
> ***Staff Sgt. Raja Panchal***
> *Contracting officer for Operation NORTHERN WATCH*

However, such a perk is not without a down side, and he said force protection is a big issue in his job. "I have to be very aware of force protection," the sergeant said. "I can buy many products locally and few people question who I am or where I'm from, but when I'm buying a large contract for services, or even the bottled water contract, it becomes obvious who I work for. It's just a matter of being careful and aware of my surroundings."

Despite any downsides of the job, Panchal said he's not likely to leave the career field any time soon. "I've worked in acquisitions since I came in the Air Force nine years ago," he said. "If we can find little ways to save money here and there, it's all going to add up. And that's good for the coalition."

Questions answered about coming back to duty

CONT. FROM page 4.

- Pilot and Navigator Voluntary Return to Active Duty: This program offers officers who are current and qualified in an active-duty Air Force aircraft to return to the cockpit. Details on this program can be found at https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/trainer/AOT3/Accessions/Return.htm.

- Retired Aviator Recall Program: The Air Force was recently authorized to recall retired aviators to fill rated headquarters staff jobs. Application and program details can be found at ttps://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enl-skills/Ieb/recall.htm.

Retirees:

- Although there are no other programs that allow Air Force retirees to return to active duty, the Air Force Reserve currently has a program to hire retired active-duty officer and enlisted members to fill vacant reserve positions. For information on this program contact the local Air Force Reserve recruiter via the web at http://www.afreserve.com or call the toll-free Active Duty Retiree Program at 1-800-295-4648.

Air National Guard:

- Prior service people interested in entering the Air National Guard can get information from https://airguard.ang.af.mil or by calling 1-800-TO-GO-ANG (1-800-864-6264).

Air Force Reserve:

- Prior service people, both officer and enlisted, interested in continued service can apply for the Air Force Reserve. The Air Force Reserve is also hiring non-prior service personnel for several different career fields. People interested in the Air Force Reserve should contact their local Air Force Reserve recruiter. The numbers can be found in the blue government pages of the local phone book under "U.S. Government, Air Force Reserve." Individuals can also leave a message for a recruiter to contact them by calling 1-800-257-1212 or via the web at http://www.afreserve.com.

Civil Service:

- People wishing to enter civil service for the first time, or return to civil service can call a Recruitment Call Center representative at 1-800-699-4473 (or 527-2377 in San Antonio) or 1-800-382-0893 (565-2928) for hearing impaired TDD users. Individuals wanting more information about Air Force civilian job opportunities within specific career fields can contact the AFPC Recruitment Unit at 210-565-3069 or via e-mail at USAF.E-recruiters@afpc.randolph.af.mil mailto:USAF.E-recruiters@afpc.randolph.af.mil.

More information:

People who do not qualify for any of the above programs or need further information can call the AFPC Call Center at 1-800-558-1404 for referral to the appropriate offices or be entered into a database for any future programs that may be established.

(AFPC is located at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.)

Many want to return, serve

Tech. Sgt. Dawn Hart
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

"I'm almost 71, in reasonably good health, don't shuffle my feet, but can still shuffle papers...available for immediate voluntary recall."

These words were e-mailed only hours after the terrorist attack Sept. 11. Officials here are busy answering questions about how people volunteering to come back on active duty can best serve.

Hundreds of phone calls and e-mails have been received here from people who have either separated or retired from the Air Force, recently, and not so recently, and who say they want to step in and defend their country once again.

"I was discharged in 1970...I was a crew chief on a B-58 bomber and an HC-130H. I don't know if you need my services at this time, but if so I am willing to serve in whatever capacity your needs require," said another volunteer.

"I would like to let the proper authorities know that my name can be added to any list being gathered for recent retirees who are volunteers to return to active duty," said another.

Feeling stressed? These techniques may help

Handling stress can be difficult even in the best of times. In times of crisis, stress can sometimes be overwhelming. People have normal reactions to abnormal situations. Please take the time to take care of each other, making sure you, your families and your co-workers follow these stress management guidelines:

1. Diaphragmatic breathing is critical. Ensure you expand your lungs fully by breathing into your stomach instead of your chest.
2. Eat healthy and normally as possible. Drink LOTS of water. Stress will dehydrate you.
3. Mild to moderate aerobic exercise, but not too close to bedtime.
4. Talk to friends and loved ones. Support each other.
5. Avoid alcohol.
6. Be aware of changes in behavior. This may indicate a need to talk.
7. Try to keep your schedule as normal as you can under the circumstances.

Children are not immune from the stress stemming from a disaster. The way children see and understand their parents' response is very important. Age of the child plays an important role in their reaction to a traumatic event. A six year old may become clingy to a parent while a teen-ager may minimize the impact but may argue more with parents or show a decline in school performance. Contact your child's physician if you are concerned about how your child is dealing with stress.

During traumatic events, people pool their collective talents to persevere. We can overcome this disaster by taking the time to take care of others and ourselves.

For assistance or more information please contact:

Peterson Life Skills: 556-7804

Schriever Chaplain's Office: 567-3705

Schriever Health and Wellness Center: 567-HAWC

(Courtesy of the Peterson Air Force Base Life Skills Office.)

New airmen go above, beyond

Airman 1st Class Daniel Bennett
50th Communications Squadron

The First Term Airman Center recognizes its graduates who went above and beyond the graduation requirements by memorizing the entire Code of Conduct and the 50th Space Wing Mission statement. All students are required to memorize two of the Codes of Conduct and the 50th Space Wing Mission statement in order to graduate. The following Airmen have shown they are willing to go the extra step and memorize all six Codes of Conduct and the 50th Space Wing Mission statement during the 10-day course and recite them before their peers. These top performers represent the top 5 percent of more than 500 FTAC students and prove themselves leaders among their peers. The following airman are recognized for their hard work:

50th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman 1st Class Thomas Longworth

Amn. Katisha Gray

Airman 1st Class Valarie Smith

Amn. Elliott Jackson

1st Space Operations Squadron

Amn. Geicha Santiago

Airman 1st Class Michael Androlevich

Airman 1st Class David Sullivan

Amn. Edwin Medina Diaz

2nd SOPS

Airman 1st Class Joanna Kitchens

Airman 1st Class Tonya Spencer

Airman 1st Class Christine Rushton.

Pikes Peak Community College holds class here

Pikes Peak Community College is offereing a lunch time class at the military personnel flight. The class starts Oct. 22 and runs through Dec. 14, meeting Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

English Composition I is the pre-requisite and must have been previously completed.

This course is accepted by the Community College of the Air Force.

Master Sgt. John Glenn is maintaining a roster and can be reached at 7-3722.

For additional information, please contact the PPCC Office at 574-1169 ext. 100.

FYI

NEED TO KNOW

AF Retiree Council Replacement

The Air Force Retiree Council member that represents our area (Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming) will soon be leaving. The council is looking for a replacement.

Council members are responsible for annually visiting each base in their geographic area. Their other duties can be found in Air Force Instruction 36-3106.

The council is interested in candidates, officer or enlisted, who have shown involvement in military retiree programs. Previous members in Retiree Activities Offices have been effective in the past.

For more information, please contact Bruce Creller at DSN 665-3431 or email at bruce.creller@afpc.randolph.af.mil.

Civilian personnel flight training program/seminars

The following training/seminars are being offered to all civilian employees serviced by the Peterson Air Force Base Civilian Personnel Flight. All training will be held in the Mission Support Building, Bldg 350, Civilian Personnel Flight, Training Room, Room 1113; normally 8 a.m.-4 p.m. To

FYI continued on page 12.

reserve a seat, please e-mail the individual identified as the point of contact for each group of seminars.

Employee training

How to Become a Better Communicator/Skill Path Oct. 15

POC: mailto:Theresa.Dickson@peterson.af.mil

Civilian retirement seminars:

Pre-retirement seminar - CSRS employees Oct. 11-12

Pre-retirement seminar - FERS employees Nov. 8-9

Pre-retirement seminar - CSRS employees Dec. 6-7

Mid-career retirement seminar - FERS employees Jan. 10-11

Pre-retirement seminar - CSRS employees Feb. 7-8

(POC: mailto:Theresa.Dickson@peterson.af.mil

Civilian Personnel Management Course

This course is for military and civilian supervisors of civilians. Provides background information and an understanding of applicable personnel laws and regulations needed to effectively carry out supervisory/management responsibilities. Subject areas covered include Position Management and Classification, Staffing/Affirmative Employment, Reduction in Force, Hours of Work and Pay, Leave and Absence, Awards Program, Constructive Discipline and Adverse Actions, Performance Management, Injury Compensation, Training, Labor Management Relations, and Grievances and Appeals. Oct. 16-19, Jan. 22-25. (POC: mailto:Beverly.Sagapolutele@peterson.af.mil)

Military Personnel Management Course

This course is designed for civilian supervisors of military personnel. The course provides background information and an understanding of applicable military personnel rules and regulations needed to effectively carry out supervisory/management responsibilities. Subject areas covered include Expeditionary Aerospace Force, Promotions/Recognition, Officer Performance Reports /Enlisted Performance Reports, Leave Management Program, Professional Military Education, Discipline/Standards, Retention Issues, Mentoring, Weight & Management Program and Military Administrative Issues. Apr. 9-10. (POC: mailto:Beverly.Sagapolutele@peterson.af.mil)

Additional supervisory training

Air Force Supervisory Course Feb. 20-22 (POC: mailto:Beverly.Sagapolutele@peterson.af.mil)

Family Support Classes

Classes are held in the Family Support Center classroom, 135 Dover Street, Bldg. 350, Room 1016 (unless otherwise specified). Registration is required for all classes. To register, please call the Family Support Center at 556-6141 or stop by Rm. 1016.

Sponsorship Training- Oct. 2, 7:30-8:45 a.m. This training highlights sponsor responsibilities, relocation resources available both on and off base and the effect that sponsorship has on the overall mission. Training is required for all sponsors of military and civilian employees.

Job Orientation- Oct. 4, 1-2:30 p.m. This class gives a brief overview of information on the local job market and how the Family Support Center can help your job search.

Limited service

Pass and I.D. will not be providing extended/permanent badging services Oct. 1 from 6 a.m. to noon. This includes producing, encoding or enrolling extended or permanent badges, and all other services provided in the badge room. This also includes all badges issued from Schriever, Peterson Air Force Base or Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station. One day "T" and "V" badges and vehicle passes and registrations will be accomplished at the counter. Normal badging services will resume at noon. Advance notification of this closure should limit, if not eliminate, any inconvenience to personnel needing these services. If you have questions, please call 567-5680.

VEAP / MGIB conversion

Public Law 106-419 provides an opportunity for certain Veterans Education Assistance Program participants to now participate in the Montgomery G. I. Bill. This conversion opportunity, which must be completed by Oct. 31, will effect more than 25,000 Air Force members. Converting to the MGIB will provide participants up to $650 per month for 36 months ($23,400.00) to help finance their education. Individuals wanting to convert from VEAP to the MGIB should stop by the education office.

The education office is located in building 1141, just west of the library and south of the BX, 301 W. Stewart Avenue. More information can be found at the Veterans Administration Web Site http://www.gibill.va.gov/.