



FIGHTER LINE

N A S F O R T W O R T H J R B , C A R S W E L L F I E L D

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Air Force Reserve Command: Proud Partner in the Total Force

February 3, 2007

NEWS BRIEFS

Banquet set in Feb.

The 301st Fighter Wing's Awards Banquet will be held on Feb. 3. See your first sergeant or any 301st FW chief for additional information.

Wing wins award

The 301st Fighter Wing has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for Oct. 1, 2004, to Sept. 30, 2006. Reservists assigned to this unit during the award period are eligible to wear the award. Those remaining with the unit should have their records automatically updated by their military personnel flight. Former unit members should check with the MPF to ensure they receive credit for the award.

301st Safety is AFRC's choice

The 301st Fighter Wing Safety Office received the 10th Air Force Safety Office of the Year Award for 2006.

Teamwork wins

Join the 301st team for the 2007 Cowtown Marathon. There will be teams entered in the 5k, 10k, and marathon relay categories for Saturday, Feb. 24. See Maj. Chris Clark, 817.782.7867 for more details.



Above and beyond

An F-16 four-ship flies over Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth Carswell Field, Texas, providing a picturesque aerial view of Cowtown. These Air Force Reserve Command aircraft belong to the 457th Fighter Squadron "SPADs" which flies the hometown built Fighting Falcon. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

Total force takes reservist to sands and beyond

Tech. Sgt. Julie Briden-Garcia
Public Affairs

When Master Sgt. Michelle Branch received the call to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, she never hesitated. She had only been assigned to the 301st Civil Engineer Squadron for a few months after shifting from the 73rd Aerial Port Squadron. She eagerly packed her

bags, completed all the required training, and headed off for, what she thought would be a four-month deployment which began on Sept. 2005. This mission became an eye-opening experience for what the term 'Total Force' is all about.

While deployed during the Aerospace Expedition Force Cycle 7/8, Sergeant Branch's main duties and responsibilities were to provide executive administrative support to

the Deputy Combined Forces Air Commander (DCFACC), Maj. Gen. Allen Peck, at the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC). The CAOC is the command and control hub for all air operations within the U.S. Central Command's (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility.

Manned by coalition professionals on a 24/7 basis,

(BRANCH continues on page 5)



SECAF persists with core value of ‘excellence in all we do’

Michael W. Wynne

Secretary of the Air Force

The new year is upon us and promises to be as challenging as the past year, because a nation at war knows no rest. Our Air Force has been at war for more than 16 years, and we must plan for more. The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the past year and set new goals for what we want to accomplish as individual Airmen and as an Air Force. One of the beacons to guide you in forming these goals is the Core Value of “Excellence in All We Do,” and a mechanism to implement these goals is AFSO21.

Having just returned from the CENTCOMAOR, I know very well the amazing things you are accomplishing every day for our Air Force as you face the rigors of serving in a combat zone. Every Airman’s dedication and attention to detail in this demanding and unforgiving environment are what makes our Air Force second to none. And I was also proud to see Airmen everywhere using Air Force Smart Operations to strive for excellence in their deployed workplaces. Seemingly simple suggestions, such as rearranging tool rooms and weapons storage facilities, saved time, money, and even lives, while giving us a more efficient and lethal organization.

But AFSO21 does not just call for excellence in process improvement or organizational structure. The changes in enabling functions are not ends themselves; rather they must lead to greater

combat capability. On my recent trip, I was impressed by the Airmen who added IR sensors to their vehicles to search for IEDs. Other innovations, such as the ROVER laptop, came from the warfighters in the field who sought better air/ground inter-operability. From lifesaving ideas to increased operational capability, Airmen continue to impress me with their passion for finding a better way.

“Excellence” does not stop with singular achievements, which is why our Core Value has the qualifier of “in All We Do.” A culture of excellence must inform and permeate all of our actions. AFSO21 assists us in achieving this excellence by empowering our Airmen to ask how we can do things better. Excellence must be our prevailing attitude.

To those of you who are returning from deployment, I welcome you home and encourage you to share your experiences from the field with your commanders, your fellow Airmen, and the public. Your invaluable combat experience will contribute mightily to our collective pursuit of excellence, as long as we capture your successes in combat and codify them into relevant and realistic training for others.

There is no doubt that we are the greatest Air, Space, and Cyberspace force in the world - no one can do what we do on a daily basis. Yet we still have room for improvement. Remember, our enemies are continually looking for ways to defeat us, so it is critical we build upon the successes of 2006. Make excellence your hallmark for 2007; it’s what distinguishes us as Airmen and as an Air Force.

Black history month — On the road which guides us



from the First Sergeant’s desk

Master Sgt. Kevin McWashington

301st Aerospace Medicine Squadron First Sergeant

Teacher, historian and author Carter G. Woodson proposed a time to celebrate nationwide Negro History Week in 1915. His proposal later became Black History Month, celebrated every February.

One purpose of Black History Month is to recognize past events that affect us today.

Looking through the window of history, there are several milestones in our nation’s

evolution that resonate in the depths of our culture. Some events receive great attention. Others are more subtle, receiving little fanfare, yet they are just as important in shaping and molding this country we love and serve.

War Department General Order No. 143 is one of those less-remembered but important events. Issued on May 22, 1863, the order established the Bureau

of Colored Troops.

In his article, First to Fight, author John Raymond Gourdin wrote, “Prior to the establishment of the Bureau, colored regiments were organized and supported by state governments in free states and in areas in Confederate states occupied and controlled by Federal troops. However, after the establishment of the Bureau, those regiments that were previously raised by state governments and carried state designations were redesignated as regiments of United States Colored Troops and assigned a USCT number.”

Although no longer consid-

ered colored, Americans of African descent continue to agree with the fundamentals and principles established by General Order 143. Accepting the opportunity to serve, defending the borders we dwell within and upholding the integrity of law permeate through those of us who continue the tradition of military service to this great nation today.

February is not only a time to reflect, but more importantly, a time of growth. By understanding the struggles and progress made by our predecessors, we are obliged to follow their lead and improve our country.

FIGHTER LINE

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Contents of the Fighter Line are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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Texas. All photographs in the Fighter Line are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadline for unsolicited submissions is close of business Monday after the “A” schedule unit training assembly.

Articles should be typed, single-spaced, and, if possible, submitted via e-mail to the public affairs office at 301fw.pa@carswell.af.mil. For more information, call the 301st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at 817.782.7170.

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Born to fly, trained to be a fighter pilot

Tech. Sgt. Stephen
Bailey

Public Affairs

Christopher Bachelor was that good kid in the neighborhood who you knew would do great things one day. Now the kid, turned lieutenant, has done just that. He recently graduated in the top spot of his pilot training class, receiving four of the five major awards, as well as being selected for F-16 training.

The awards, which came as a surprise to young Bachelor, seemed to be more of a regular occurrence according to his dad, Col. Ken Bachelor, 301st Fighter Wing vice commander. He describes his son as a great achiever and one who has done well with everything he has set his mind to accomplish.

“He’s a good and hard working young man who has never disappointed us. His mother and I are very proud of his accomplishments.”

The awards presented during the December graduation at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., included the Air Education and Training Command Commander’s Trophy, the Distinguished Graduate award, the Flying Training award (Top Stick), and the Leadership award.

“I was pleasantly surprised when my name was called for the awards and am very thankful for the training I received,” 2nd Lt. Bachelor said.

Describing his schooling as intense at times, the lieutenant said the experience was pretty steady, filled with academics for the first four to six weeks before the flightline phase began.

“I was told the flightline portion would be the toughest part of the course, but really, it wasn’t too bad – I felt I was

prepared,” he explained. Several of his classmates, including himself, had their private pilot’s license before entering military pilot training.

Taking things lightly, at times, was one way to help handle the course and reduce the stress he explained. “Moments like giving the morning briefings became humorous parts of the day because many of us would mess up or forget what to say – it was our time to learn how to do it right, even though we messed up most of the time,” Lieutenant Bachelor said jokingly. “For the most part, we all worked together to get the job done right and help each other while building some good friendships along the way.”

After his fighter tactics introduction phase at Sheppard AFB, Texas, he will then travel to Luke AFB, Ariz., to attend F-16 school for the next seven to eight months. Following his training, Lieutenant Bachelor has set his sights on the Air Force Reserve, following in his dad’s footsteps, to fly F-16s for the historic 457th “SPAD” Fighter Squadron here at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field.

“I believe, for me, the Air

Force Reserve provides a better direction for what I want to achieve. I eagerly look forward to continuing to learn to fly the F-16 then advance toward even higher goals of working with the F-22 and F-35 weapon systems.”

Depicting himself as someone who is pretty easy going, the 23-year-old made his mark early in life, building his leadership skills by first working with the Boy Scouts of America, where he achieved his Eagle Scout badge. But he goes on to his church youth leaders who made life-changing impacts on his life.

“In our youth group we all worked together to help each other develop leadership skills and how to make sound decisions. We did this through youth trips where we took turns leading small groups in trip planning, coordinating



2nd Lt. Chris Bachelor in his Pilot Training graduation photo. (Courtesy Photo)

activities, and counseling younger church participants.”

“Chris has a really good heart and cares a lot about other people,” said his mother. “That’s what makes him a good leader, but he’s also real daring at times which makes an even better fighter pilot – but even as a mother, I have to tell him to *have fun, but be safe* – that’s a mother’s job,” she said laughingly.

2nd Lt. Bachelor says he never forgets to thank his mom and dad who gave him the guidance and wisdom along the way to be where he’s at today.

“My parents are really great; they have always been very supportive of me, giving me the room to develop in a healthy and positive way.”

Graduating high school early, at age 17, Lieutenant Bachelor went on to graduate from Texas Christian University with a degree in psychology. He would have continued in the medical field had he not pursued pilot training.

“I have loved flying ever

**(BACHELOR
continues on page 10)**



301st Fighter Wing leaders attended a future wing member’s pilot training graduation, (l to r) Col. (sel.) Bruce Cox, 457th Fighter Squadron, Lt. Col. Mortensen, 457th FS commander, Col. Ken Bachelor, 301st Fighter Wing vice commander, 2nd Lt. Christopher Bachelor, future wing member, Col. Kevin Pottinger, 301st FW commander, and Col. Tommy Williams, 301st Operations Group commander.

Stripes to bars gives enlisted time to shine



Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack
Public Affairs

Second Lieutenant John Storm always leaves his mark wherever he goes, but when he recently completed Academy of Military Science he may have left his mark on the history books of this prestigious school.

Upon graduation he was told by the faculty he received the “highest score ever” and finished the officer course with an Air Force Association Academic Award and distinguished graduate award — the highest awards given for accomplishments at this school.

Col. Ken Bachelor and the lieutenant’s family were there to witness this new milestone in his career.

“AMS was intense, but I enjoyed it,” said 2nd Lt. Storm, 301st Operations Support Flight Intel officer. He notes his success to this endeavor from a total commitment and leaving all distractions at home while focusing on the end result. He also says fitness is a key part of being a total quality service member and has helped him get where he is today.

The lieutenant was gained by the Air Force as an enlisted soldier from the Army in 2004.

He had already completed more accomplishments at this point in his life than most complete in their entire military career.

His military experience began in the Army in 1999. He had just completed his bachelor’s degree and found the Army as a way to serve his country while simultaneously repaying his student loan from college.

During his first tour in the Army he was selected to become part of the “Old Guard,”



Col. Ken Bachelor, 301st Fighter Wing vice commander, and 2nd Lt. John Storm’s mother pin on his new officer bars at the Academy of Military Science graduation ceremony. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

the Third U.S. Infantry, to escort the President of the United States. One of his first assignments was escorting President George Bush during the Inauguration.

When the terrorist attacks hit at the Pentagon, the Old Guard was tasked with assisting with the recovery efforts that would follow. During this assignment, the lieutenant took part in pulling the first United States flag from the rubble.

“Everything stopped. At that moment I had a complete understanding of the gravity of the situation,” said Lieutenant Storm. “For me, the experience was life changing. It made me aware of my blessings and freedom.”

His career has spiraled upwardly since that moment of transformation. He continued on to military leadership school in the Army and was a noncommissioned officer in charge stationed in Washington D.C., working as a liaison to other diplomatic agencies. Although everything was going well he longed to be back home in Dallas, Texas, and that is where his sights were set next.

With drive and motivation, he took charge of his career and connected with a recruiter in the Air Force Reserve, who helped him navigate his career path to follow in the next

direction. He was offered an intelligence position in the 457th Fighter Squadron.

“This is a distinguished F-16 unit with an outstanding reputation,” said Lieutenant Storm. He was also impressed how they were big believers in promoting from within. He planned to stay there a while and wanted to accomplish his next goal, to become an officer with this unit.

But he didn’t sit back and wait for it to happen. He took part in the squadron deployment to Iraq in October 2005 and even volunteered to stay over another cycle with his incoming sister unit, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to gain experience as a three-level and provide the continuity that was pivotal to their mission’s success.

“He always volunteered to help where help was needed,” said Senior Master Sgt. James Hunt, 457th Fighter Squadron superintendent. “He is meticulous and stays focused on the mission.”

Shortly upon his return from the desert he was called in to the office of Lt. Col. Bob Mortensen, 457th FS commander and Colonel Bachelor, 301st Fighter Wing vice commander. He first

(STORM
continues on page 10)



Deployment turns into a lifetime of opportunities to serve

**(BRANCH
continued from page 1)**

the CAOC performs command and control of air and space forces in and across the 5,400-mile USCENTCOM area. It provides air power in support of ground forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa, CAOC officials stated.

During her tour of duty, Sergeant Branch had the opportunity to meet and work with numerous VIPs and high ranking officials who came to visit the base in Southwest Asia. She commented to staff members of the publication *Desert Eagle* that the best part of her deployment was the honor of supporting the senior staff while meeting presidents, congressmen, and ambassadors. The *Desert Eagle* recognized Sergeant Branch as "Warrior of the Week" for Feb. 26, 2006.

"I did a lot of interacting with Joint and Coalition Forces troops and Directorates; as well as assisting with hosting distinguished visitors. In December 2005, because of my work performance, I was awarded the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan with the DCFACC and the Secretary of Air Force Michael T. Wynne for a job well done."

Her work effort and esprit de corps was rewarded again when she was asked to extend her rotation to provide continuity for the AEF Cycle 9/10. The 17-year veteran and Fort Worth native continued her duties for an additional four and one-half months as superintendent of the Command Section Information Management staff in the CAOC. Sergeant Branch provided command section guidance to 36 information managers and Joint and Coalition Forces assigned to the CAOC.

Her second rotation started out as memorable as the first by assisting in the preparation for a visit to the CAOC by former President George H.W. Bush in January 2006. "I also helped with the preparation for a CAOC visit by the former USCENTCOM Commander, retired

Gen. Tommy Franks who's also a Texan."

"I remember having a brief conversation with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Michael T. Mosley about the 2006 NCAA Football Championship. He said he would like to see a Texas team win." A few weeks later, the Texas Longhorns won the championship."

After her deployment came to a close in May 2006, Sergeant Branch was requested by name to be the assistant to USCENTAF's Doha Asian Games Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Tim Rush. In this position, she was one of the first members to start up the Doha Asian Games Headquarters (DAG). Sergeant Branch communicated with various joint forces units. In particular, the Joint Force Command (JFCOM) senior leadership. She assisted JFCOM with ensuring all USCENTAF DAG deploying personnel arrangements where taken care.

"I must admit, my tour at the CAOC started out quite stressful, but I took that stress and turned it into positive energy to perform the best job that I could perform. Because of that turn around, I was offered to join the 9th Air Force staff at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., for a 365-day tour where I am currently serving as the assistant to the Air Reserve Component (ARC) commander."

**(BRANCH
continues on page 7)**



Chili cook-off sets 301st FW on **Fire!**



Mmmm, good

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Stevens, 301st Civil Engineer Squadron, pauses, contemplating the heat intensity of his latest concoction. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Laura Dermarderosian-Smith)



Oh what a relief it is

Senior Master Sgt. Rich Ernst, 301st Mission Support Squadron superintendent, spoons at his yummy chili with thoughts of antacids in his future. The recent Chili Cook-Off was a fund-raiser for the 301st Booster Club, an organization geared to help local Air Force Reserve members who have extenuating financial needs. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Laura Dermarderosian-Smith)



And the winner is ...

Chuck Stewart, Chili Cook-Off 2006 champion, brewed up a pot of his famous "JP-2000" chili to defeat the runner up, Myrna Garcia from the 301st Operations Group and her recipe called "Afterburner." (U.S. Air Force Photo/Laura Dermarderosian-Smith)

Battle uniform available to deploying Airmen this spring

WASHINGTON (AFPN)— The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

The new ABU is in production Dec. 7 and uniforms are being warehoused.

The uniform will be ready for distribution to Airmen deploying as part of AEFs 7/8. Most Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment.

Battlefield Airmen with Air Force specialty codes for combat rescue, special tactics, pararescue jumper, combat control, tactical air control Airmen, members of the special operations weather team, battlefield weather Airmen and explosive ordnance members will each receive four ABU sets.

By October 2007, the Air Force

will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets.

The ABU boasts 236 different size options in both male and female sizes. Additionally, its permanent press finish means the uniform cannot be starched, pressed or dry-cleaned. Airmen will be able to pull the ABU from the clothes dryer and wear it without further treatment. Any ironing could degrade the effectiveness of the uniform.

The cost for the uniform, pants and coat, runs about \$81. Additional items, such as socks, T-shirts, belts, and ABU-style hats will also need to be purchased. Airmen are authorized to wear DCU-style boots with the

ABU until the newly designed green boots become readily available. The green boots are priced at \$100.

The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011. The 301st Fighter Wing is expected to receive stock by April/May 2007.

The Air Force Reserve Command locations who are to receive the ABU first are: Barnes; Battle Creek; Beale; Boise; Carswell; Cheyenne; Eielson; Fairchild; Grissom; Homestead; Keesler; Kelly; Luke; Martinsburg; Moffett; Pease; Puerto Rico; Selfridge; Sioux City; Sioux Falls; Suffolk; Terre Haute And Youngstown.

AFI 36-2903 wear policy message dated Jan. 1, 2007, addresses all accessories authorized with the new uniform.



The new Airman Battle Uniform. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration)

(BRANCH continued from page 5)

Even though Sergeant Branch has been deployed for a total of 12 months, her 301st CES commander, Lt. Col. Stephen M. Becker, still strongly supports her endeavors to lean forward and contribute to the Total Force mission.

“She will represent the ARC in a very professional manner,” said Colonel Becker. “She has accumulated a wealth of knowledge on both the active-duty and the ARC side of the house on how to get things done. She

will be a great asset to both in coordinating and solving deployment issues.”

On a final note, Master Sgt. Michelle Branch claims her most memorable moment during both deployments was her trip Dec. 2005 to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, with the Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne. *(References are included in this story from AFPN “Command and control a 24/7 operation” by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson, U.S. Central Command Air Forces Public Affairs released June 5, 2006.)*



Gen. Abizad, U.S. Central Command commander, hands Master Sgt. Michelle Branch, superintendent of Command Section Information Management in the Combined Air Operations Center his coin for her outstanding duty performance while Maj. Brandon Havron, 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment in the CAOC, observes. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

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Are you a gambler?

Taking unnecessary risks is like playing craps with your life

Master Sgt. Joseph
"Douglas" Quiroga
Flight Safety Office

Do you prefer to make important decisions by throwing dice? That may be appropriate sitting at a craps table in Vegas, but it won't provide a safety margin when dealing with decisions impacting servicemembers' lives in a military environment.

How would you rate the condition of your unit's Operational Risk Management (ORM) program? Excellent, good, or mediocre?

Does your unit have an active ORM program? A sound ORM program is not just a good idea, it is a requirement mandated by AFI 90-901 and AFD 90-9.

Several years ago, our flight safety office conducted an ORM program assessment to gauge

the health of the 301st Fighter Wing's program. The poignant questions from that assessment are even more relevant today. I have borrowed from the lessons learned section of that assessment to ask you a few questions:

How does your unit actively manage risk? How do you document the process? Are your unit's ORM advisors ensuring existing and incoming personnel receive ORM training? Are your unit's ORM advisors involved with ORM analysis? Are you utilizing ORM during your deployments and exercises? How are personnel encouraged to use personal risk management off duty? What percent of your unit's personnel have completed basic and refresher ORM training?

That assessment provided a solid base for developing a

wing culture of smart risk management. Since then, and continuing under very ORM-proactive leadership, we have made excellent progress in our ORM program overall. Emphasis has been continuously placed in taking our program to the next level – a level where *all* wing personnel are thoroughly familiar with the concept, terminology, methodology, and use of ORM.

Excellence can only be achieved through team work. Thus, I strongly suggest you seek assistance from your wing safety office personnel if you wish to take your unit's ORM program above and beyond the minimums required.

ORM is not another cliché nor one more "the thing of the day" catchword. It is a process based on sound logic and scientific principles for risk

management, written in a plain, simple language anyone can comprehend. It does require an effort (what doesn't?) to learn and a desire to be proactive with safety to utilize it. But the rewards can, and will, be ample; lives saved, injuries prevented, and mission-essential equipment preserved.

So, if you like to gamble, go to Vegas. At home, in your unit, always use ORM to eliminate unnecessary risk, or at the least, to minimize it.

War is a risky business and risk can be managed. Unmitigated risk in our daily activities is not an acceptable proposition and there can be no excuses for injuries, lives or equipment lost due to lack of planning for risk management.

Be safety proactive, be smart, and use ORM. It is not just a good idea – it is a requirement.



Former wing members chosen for one-star promotion

WASHINGTON – The chief of Air Force Reserve, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, announced Jan. 10 that the president has approved the nomination of seven brigadier generals and nine colonels for promotion.

Of these, three are prior

301st Fighter Wing members and one, Patrick A. Cord, vice commander of 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Carswell Field, Texas, is from our numbered Air Force.

Cols. Frank E. Anderson,

MA to the director of operations and training, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon

Craig N. Gourley, MA to the director, operational plans and joint matters, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon

William F. Schauffert, MA to the commander of 19th Air Force, Randolph AFB, Texas

These promotions take effect upon U.S. Senate confirmation and by the direction of the chief of Air Force Reserve. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

Reserve Component Force Management Policy changes

The secretary of defense announced today a policy change in the way the department will manage reserve component forces.

The first aspect of the policy change will involve the way the department manages deployments of reserve forces. Currently, reserve deployments are managed on an individual basis. In the future deployments will be managed on unit basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.

The second aspect of the policy change addresses the maximum mobilization time for members of the reserve forces. Currently, the policy is for a maximum mobilization time of 18 months. The department will reduce the maximum mobilization to one year.

Third, the policy objective for involuntary mobilization of Guard/ Reserve units will remain a one-year mobilized to five-year demobilized ratio. However, today's global demands will require a number of selected Guard/ Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to demobilization ratio remains the goal of the department, as does the active component's ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.

The fourth aspect of the policy change will establish a new program to compensate individuals in both ac-

tive and reserve component forces that are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratio times. It will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.

The final aspect of the policy change will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship waiver program, to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed service members.

These policy changes will better allow the department to posture itself for success in the uncertain environment in which it currently operates, and well into the future.

Defense information now customized for mobile devices

WASHINGTON (AFNEWS) — Defense Department news releases, articles and other information are now available in a new format that is customized for easier viewing on BlackBerries and other mobile devices, officials said.

The new, mobile-device-friendly format can be accessed at www.dod.mil/mobile, officials affiliated with the project said.

Customers will see much of the same information and many of the pho-

tos and graphics that appear on the regular DefenseLink Web page, available at <http://www.defenselink.mil> said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt, AFIS's new media operations manager.

Using the mobile device Web browser, type in <http://www.DoD.mil/mobile> to view top DOD news and press releases customized to fit the mobile device screen.

Vets may be missing out on special compensation

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNEWS) — Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive combat-related special compensation, or CRSC.

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation, said Ann Lacey of the CRSC office at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

"Don't let the term 'combat' throw you; there are many circumstances which are combat-related that could justify approval of extra tax-free money for you!" she said.

CRSC is designed to restore military retirement pay that has been offset by Department of Veterans Affairs compensation when evidence exists to confirm the associated dis-

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Reserve News
Reserve News

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Online retirement applications require review, coordination, monitoring

The Air Reserve Personnel Center has had many Airmen successfully approved for retirement using the vPC-GR online application since it launched in July. In fact, of the 4,920 applications entered into the system, 2,949 have been approved.

A recently noticed problem is that of the 655 applications awaiting commander's action, 295 have been "in coordination" for more than 60 days.

"That is frustrating for everyone involved with the process, especially the Airmen who are ready to transition to the retired reserve," said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. "We are doing everything we can to help with this situation."

One thing retiring Airmen can do to ensure their application is on track is verifying their commander's e-mail address and checking their application status weekly, Colonel Shippy said.

They can do this by logging into the vPC-GR and selecting the retirement application link.

If the commander or program manager has coordinated on the application, the status will reflect "completed."

If there is no change in its status after 30 days, Airmen should notify their commander to ensure he or she has seen the application. If the commander hasn't, then the Airman should call the ARPC Contact Center at 800-525-0102 to ensure there is no delay in the approval process.

Commanders at all levels need to take action when a retirement application from vPC-GR is received, Colonel Shippy said.

"We encourage you and your staff to develop local policy to ensure the Airman has met the requirements for retirement and the needs of your organization," the commander said.

ARPC is continually improving processes and looks forward to launching several enhancements to make the online retirement process even easier in the future, Colonel Shippy said.



This was a proud moment for 2nd Lt. John Storm, 301st Operations Support Flight Intel officer, posing with his graduation certificate after finishing the Academy of Military Science. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Col. Ken Bachelor)

(STORM continued from page 4)

thought was, “Oh no, what did I do,” but to his surprise he was offered the 301st Fighter Wing Intel officer position when the first individual selected decided to take another career path. “This was the next stepping stone in my career,” said the lieutenant. “This was where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do.”

Now that he is commissioned, many feel he is more than prepared for his new role as 2nd Lt. to the 301st Operation Support Flight Intel office.

“He was a number one soldier in the Army, said Col. (sel) Bruce

Cox. “He produces results and exceeds expectations — we are very lucky to have him.”

2nd Lt. Storm said the biggest challenge in his new role will be taking a back seat from the direct daily operations into benchmarking, but he’s ready.

“This new position provides new challenges I wasn’t expecting, but nothing I’m not prepared for,” he said. Also noting that, above all, it will be “service before self” that will take him through this challenge, as well as all of his future endeavors.

“It’s important to live in service to other people. This is my opportunity to give back.”



2nd Lt. Christopher Bachelor receives one of four awards he earned while at pilot training, one being distinguished graduate. (U.S. Air Force Photo, Col. Ken Bachelor)

(BACHELOR continued from page 3)

since my first lesson at age 18, and because I had received a full academic scholarship at TCU, my dad said he would pay for all my flying lessons — I thought that was a great deal, and he probably did too, since it saved him much more money in tuition costs,” the lieutenant said.

Described by his first flight

instructor as a natural flyer, his dad recalls the instructor telling him that Chris was a very focused young man who picked things up quickly.

“I knew early on that Chris would do well — I’ve flown with him once in a private plane and can see he’s got what it takes to go far in his military pilot career. He will do extremely well — I have no doubt,” Colonel Bachelor said.

CBQ not proper route for UTA lodging

Members receiving lodging must call unit lodging representatives or Services Flight for assistance, not the Combined Bachelor’s Quarters.

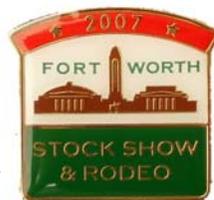
The CBQ is being overwhelmed with telephone traffic about lodging and can’t always get to changes, cancellations, or new reservations. Members are to go through unit representatives to avoid confusion and no shows.

For after-hours emergencies, call Senior Master Sgt. Patti Roark, 301st Services Flight, at 817.829.3653.

Military given appreciation at the Stock show and rodeo

Present your valid military ID card at the Rodeo ticket box office and receive free tickets to the Stock Show and Rodeo for you and your immediate family. Appreciation day, Jan. 31, 2007, is available to all valid military card carrying active-duty, Reserve, Guard members and military retirees.

This offer is good for Stock Show Grounds admission all day and the 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. rodeo performances on Jan. 31. For details, call the Rodeo ticket office at 817.877.2550.



CMSAF thanks Airmen for sacrifices

SAN ANTONIO (AFNEWS) — In the latest Chief’s View, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley took time to thank Airmen and their families for their diligent service.

In his weekly message to Airmen, the chief stressed that it’s important to take time to recognize the efforts Airmen are making in the war on terrorism.

“I want to thank each of you for your dedication to our nation and freedoms we hold dear,” Chief McKinley said. “We can get so caught up in our daily activities that we sometimes forget the powerful contribution you make to the security of our nation and our world.”

To view the complete video, visit <http://www.af.mil/tv/index.asp?showid=2344>.

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(AFNEWS continued from page 9)

abilities are combat related.

There are a few prerequisites to consider before submitting a CRSC application. To meet the basic eligibility criteria to be considered for CRSC, veterans must:

— Be retired with 20 (or more) years of active-duty military service, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve

— Be receiving military retired pay. Veterans who waived military retirement pay for Civil Service credit are not eligible to apply for CRSC.

— Have a compensable VA disability rating of 10 percent or higher.

— Receive military retired pay that is reduced by VA disability payments.

Copies of the Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation, DD Form 2860, and more information on the program

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
301ST FW PA
1651 LYONS SUITE 135
NAS JOINT RESERVE BASE
FORT WORTH TX 76127 6200

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can be downloaded from the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. People can call the Air Force CRSC office

toll free at 800.616.3775 for assistance, or e-mail them at afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil.

PROMOTIONS, REENLISTMENTS and NEWCOMERS

Promotions

701 MDS

Senior Airman Ronderla S. Allen
Staff Sgt. James I. Maher
Tech. Sgt. Lonny G. Drewrey

73 APS

Senior Airman Jon C. Lee
Staff Sgt. Patrick C. Reid

610 SFS

Senior Airman Nathaniel Modisette
Staff Sgt. Johnny J. Jacobs

301 SFS

Senior Airman Jennifer Urrutia
Tech. Sgt. Richard C. Johnson

301 CF

Staff Sgt. Scott T. Hensley
Staff Sgt. Jose Jimenez, Jr.

301 MXS

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Lopez
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Lohrding

301 AMXS

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Samuelson, Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Todd A. Sigler

Master Sgt. Nathan J. Robin
301 FW

Staff Sgt. Landon Washington
301 MOF

Tech. Sgt. Daniel C. Camacho
457 FS

Tech. Sgt. Roman G. Campos
301 SVF

Tech. Sgt. Siena Mauge
Master Sgt. Patrick McShan
301 AMDS

Tech. Sgt. Angela M. Mitchell
301 MSS

Tech. Sgt. Mary Staffeld
610 RSG

Master Sgt. Chari L. Petrie

Reenlistments

457 FS

Staff Sgt. Andrew Russell
610 SFS

Master Sgt. Andrea Cox
Staff Sgt. Clinton Millican

301 MXS

Master Sgt. Benny Adamez
Staff Sgt. Manuel Ayala

Master Sgt. Royce Taylor
73 APS

Tech. Sgt. Brian Williams
Master Sgt. Aimee Gardner

301 SFS

Tech. Sgt. Sean Aja
301 LRS

Tech. Sgt. Amanda Jones
Tech. Sgt. Rachael Kiernan

Tech. Sgt. Ramiro Suarez
Staff Sgt. Patrick Summo

301 FW

Tech. Sgt. Keith Warren
10 AF

Master Sgt. William Landers

Newcomers

301 SFS

Staff Sgt. Melissa E. Abrew
Senior Airman Melissa Ceja

301 CES

Senior Airman Benjamin J. Alexis
73 APS

Airman 1st Class Andrew J. Anderson
Senior Airman Jacqueline A. Rowland

Tech. Sgt. Adrienne D. Williams
301 MXS

Senior Airman Vanessa D. Bredehoft
Staff Sgt. Manuel V. Ayala

Staff Sgt. Dustin W. Brockelman
Staff Sgt. Heath M. Jordan

Capt. Leo J. Kamphaus, Jr.
701 MDS

Airman Basic Talyschia J. Orr
Tech. Sgt. Stephen K. Basham
Tech. Sgt. Donald K. Letterman
2nd Lt. Ronald D. Maninang
Capt. Jeannette I. Gehm
Capt. Mendi L. Hill-Jones

301 CES

Airman 1st Class Lisa N. Smith
Senior Airman Keiondra N. Morgan

Senior Airman Yana K. Williams
Staff Sgt. Mario B. Bryant

10 AF

Chief Master Sgt. Roy F. Close
Maj. Paul D. Kvernes

301 AMXS

Airman Basic Jason Gerald Heard
Senior Airman Luis M. Gonzales

Senior Airman Joel J. Harding
Senior Airman David W. Lenahan

Staff Sgt. Timothy L. Cloud
Staff Sgt. Steven N. Joubert

Staff Sgt. Charles M. Walters
Tech. Sgt. Stephen A. Feliz

610 SFS

Airman 1st Class Chris A. Duncan
610 RSG

Senior Master Sgt. Louis P. Martsof
Maj. Shaye E. Molendyke

301 FW

Staff Sgt. Sheila D. O'Connor
301 AMDS

Airman 1st Class Richard E. Pantoja
301 LRS

Senior Airman Felix A. Reyes
457 FS

Capt. Timothy F. Sehnem
610 SVF

1st Lt. Erika D. Yu