



# FIGHTER LINE

NAS JRB Fort Worth Carswell Field 301st Fighter Wing

Vol. 35, No. 8

ONE AIR FORCE, SAME FIGHT..... AN UNRIVALED WINGMAN

August 2009

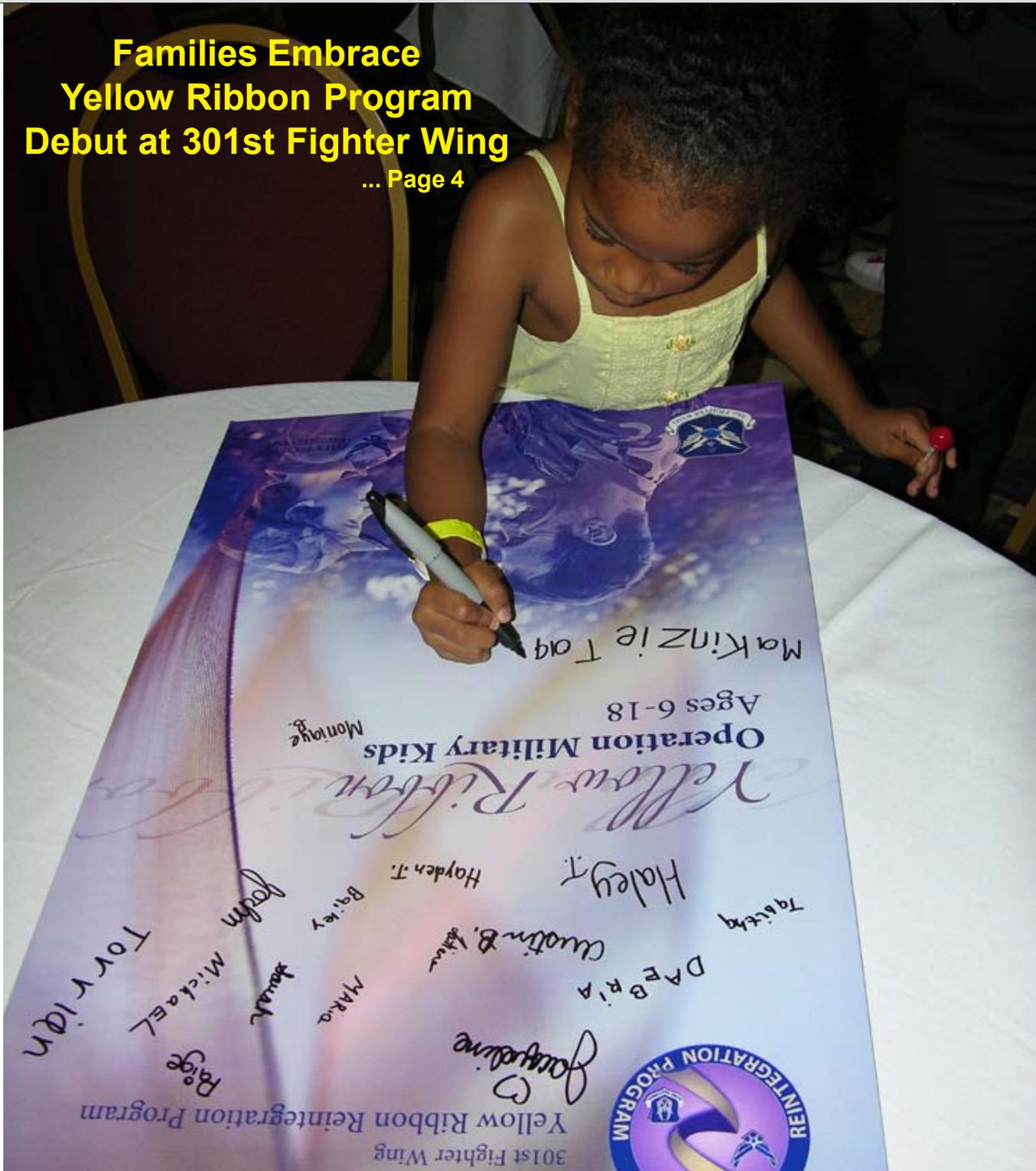
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# Operation Homefront to host 2009 Freedom Walk

**Benjamin Combs**

Operation Homefront Volunteer

Operation Homefront Texas will be hosting Freedom Walks in San Antonio, Houston, Ft. Worth/Dallas, Ft. Hood, and El Paso.

Freedom Walk is a free, nonpartisan, inclusive event open to the general public.

The purpose of this event is simply to establish a tradition to reflect on the lives lost on September 11, renew our commitment to freedom and the values of our country, and to honor our veterans, past and present. More information about registration will be coming soon. Operation Homefront provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind, and to wounded warriors when they return home.

For more information on local participation in Operation Homefront, call Ben Combs, Volunteer OHF, at 817-689-6619, or email him at: [benjamin.combs@dcma.mil](mailto:benjamin.combs@dcma.mil)

If you would like to be a sponsor of Freedom Walk 2009, please contact Karen Smithhart at 210-659-8039 or [karen@operationhomefront.net](mailto:karen@operationhomefront.net).



**ON THE COVER:** Makinzie Taplin, daughter of Staff Sgt Charles Taplin, a member of the 301st Fighter Wing's 73rd Aerial Port Squadron, joined her group in signing a commemorative poster to celebrate the 301st's inaugural Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The event took place Saturday, July 25, at the Radisson Hotel Fort Worth - Fossil Creek. It featured a day of adult and child activities focussed on bringing families closer together and tackling military family-unique challenges in the midst of ongoing deployments worldwide. (U.S. Air Force Photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)

## 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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**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 email to the public affairs office at [301fw.pa@carswell.af.mil](mailto:301fw.pa@carswell.af.mil).

For more information about the Fighter Line, call the 301st Fighter Wing public affairs office at 817-782-7170.

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- TSgt. Julie A. Briden-Garcia.....Staff Writer
- SSgt. Laura Spurling.....Staff Writer



# Make Credit Sense - Protect your identity with some simple steps

James Pettus

301 FW Anti-terrorism Officer

“I tried to refinance my home, and found out my credit was messed up because somebody charged a stereo to my account months ago!”

Have you heard this before, or have you said it yourself? I’ve had many people come to my office and share their horror stories of personal identify theft.

## “What do you mean, my credit card was declined?”

Some of these thefts could have been prevented or at least lessened if they would have kept a closer eye on their credit reports, bank statements or implemented some prevention techniques.

There are many ways to steal identities. But there are also so many ways to protect it. Stay vigilant; you never know who is looking for an easy way to make a buck.

### Steps to Better Security:

1. Take a look at your wallet. What are you telling others? Standing in line at a supermarket, you notice that the person in front of you has their purse open. You could see their driver’s license and social security number. Who else is watching? Remember not to open your wallet or purse until you are ready to pay the cashier. Hide your personal information.



3. How about the restaurant? Keep an eye on the waiter or waitress! If it takes too long to clear the bill, ask why? The server can write down your credit card information and use it later. Or they may return the wrong credit card to you. If you’re lucky enough to catch this, the server can easily say, “I’m sorry I must have made a mistake.” Did they? Be especially careful with this switch-a-roo, because you may not detect it until your next credit purchase. Also, ask your bank about a credit card with your photo on the front.



6. Mail checks at the post office or put it in an official locked mail box. If the postman can get the mail out of your mailbox someone else can too.

7. Phishing; don’t give up any personal information to an unknown member. Always question the solicitor; if it doesn’t sound right, report it to law enforcement immediately.

8. Destroy or safeguard all digital information, all of us have some type of disk or CDs that may have some personal information on it, don’t just throw those disks away.

2. Look around you. Pay attention to those over-the-shoulder snoopers at the ATMs or in the checkout line. These people are watching for anything that can be useful to them. They are looking for your pin numbers, social security number, your driver’s license number... anything. Also watch out for cell phones with cameras; one click could have all your information logged.



4. Use the shredder! Shred everything that has your personal information on it. You never know who is picking through your trash. If you are like most of us you put your trash out on the street and leave it. Is the trash collector picking it up or is someone else? Shred it!

9. Protect other’s information. In the military, you have access to other people’s personal information. Secure it at all times. Don’t throw it away. Shred it and don’t be the person responsible for their problems.

10. Talk to your family about how important it is not to give up any information to strangers. Maintain a unified front.

11. Copy your purse or wallet contents and secure it. You never know when the bad guy is going to win. If you need to cancel those cards you have all the information readily available, because timing is crucial.



# New program aims to bring military families closer

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program creates opportunities for military members, spouses and children to gather, learn to successfully cope as a team with ongoing long deployments into harm's way

## **MSgt Shawn David McCowan**

301 FW Public Affairs

The 301<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing successfully hosted its first Yellow Ribbon event on 25 July at the Radisson Hotel North in Fort Worth, Texas.

There were more than 50 members attending, along with spouses, children and members from the 917th Bomber Wing from Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Activities included marriage and single parent workshops, financial management, education, and child and youth programs.

Representatives from Tricare, Military One Source, VA benefits, Employer Support Group, Psychological Health, Legal Assistance, as well as our Chaplains, finance, and MPF were also present at the event to answer questions.

“The goal is to prepare airmen and families for mobilization and to reintegrate them with their families, communities and employers upon return,” said MSgt Thomas Blair, lead coordinator for the 301st Fighter Wing Yellow Ribbon program.

Airmen attended the event in military status, and family members were authorized to travel on Invitational Travel Authorization (ITAs).

The Secretary of Defense initiated the program for airmen who are separated from their families for 90 days or more.

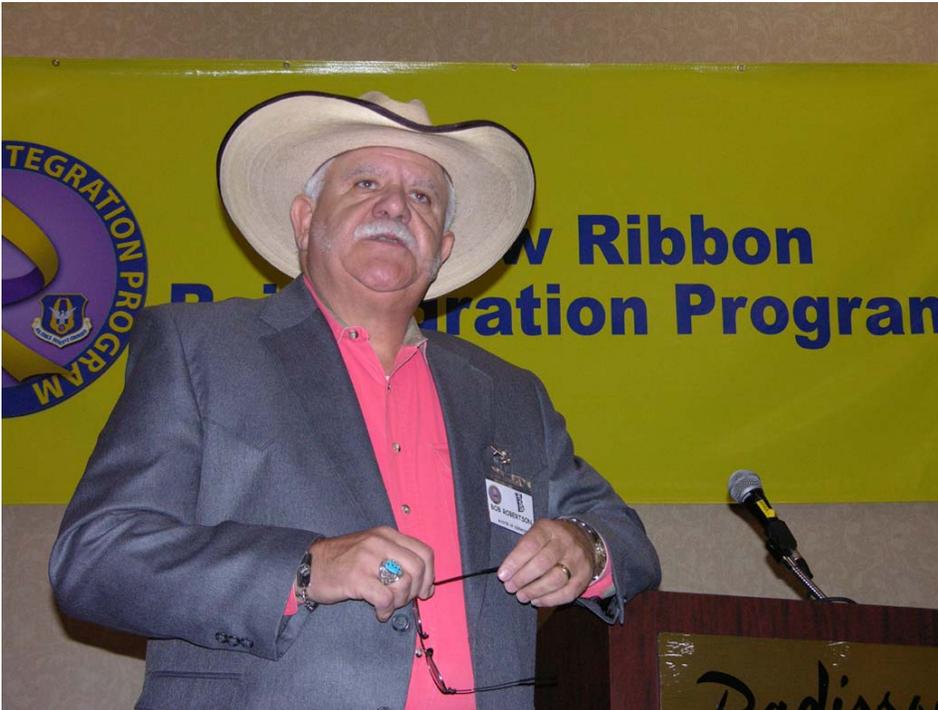
The second Yellow Ribbon event is being scheduled for September 2009. For more information please contact MSgt Thomas Blair at 817-782-7527 or e-mail: [thomas.blair@carswell.af.mil](mailto:thomas.blair@carswell.af.mil).



**Capt. Michelle Parrack, with 301st Fighter Wing Mission Support Squadron, and her husband, Sean, said they really appreciated the available topics, especially the marriage seminar. Each agreed that the seminars covered relevant and useful subjects. They also gave rave reviews for the chance to stay at the hotel for the night. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)**



**The available seminars gave attendees a variety of topics led by knowledgeable individuals like Major Nathaniel Powell (speaking at right). There were many opportunities for questions and one-on-one support. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)**



Mr. Bob Robertson (left), a member of 301st Fighter Wing's Airmen and Family Readiness, was the program's master of ceremonies. He voiced strong appreciation for new programs like the Yellow Ribbon Program to support families who are strained by ongoing deployments driven by today's high operations tempo. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)



In addition to seminars, about a dozen support agencies were available with information and ready to assist attendees with any questions about their various programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)



Children of the attendees were treated to team-building games, projects and discussions designed to help them cope when a parent deploys. (U.S. Air Force photo/CMSgt Evelyn Mickles)



CMSgt Amanda Combs, 301st Fighter Wing budget and manpower specialist, presented Colonel Richard Scobee, 301st Fighter Wing commander, with an official Yellow Ribbon staff polo at the close of the event. Colonel Scobee voiced complete support for this and future events. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt Shawn David McCowan)

# Local enlisted Airman reaches for stars, just might catch them at AF Academy

**TSgt Stephen C. Bailey**

301 FW Public Affairs

Senior Airman Chase Lehocky's dream since childhood has been to one day command a NASA space shuttle as one of its top astronauts. His recent selection to the Air Force Academy may just be his first-class ticket in making that dream a reality.

The 301<sup>st</sup> Medical Squadron pharmacy technician has had little time to celebrate since being accepted to the Academy.

"The whole process has been a whirlwind with me having to leave so quickly for the Air Force Academy preparatory school. But it has also been extremely exciting," said Airman Lehocky.

Grateful to those who have helped him, Airman Lehocky was quick to recognize his family's support and encouragement as well as his co-workers and friends who have supported him each step of the way in this process.

"I would not have had the opportunities thus far in the military if it were not for them."

The preparatory school, the first phase of his studies, started in July and will last approximately 10 months. He will then continue with the Academy following a short six-week break. According to officials, he will maintain his current pay grade along with a moderate pay increase during prep school.

Airman Lehocky graduated high school just two years ago. He finished ahead of the curve by taking mostly college-level classes. Now he embarks into a world that can provide tremendous opportunities as well as challenges.

"Math and science are my favorite subjects so, I think I will be fine academically. And I believe my Air Force Reserve experience will help as well," Lehocky said. "For me, this is the chance

of a lifetime which I'm going to take full advantage and give 100 percent toward."

Some concern, however, comes from his mother, Maj. Lisa Lehocky, who also serves in the 301<sup>st</sup> Medical Squadron here.

"I am very proud of my son, but also scared for him. The Air Force Academy is a tough college, but the AFA preparatory school will provide him a good foundation prior to the Academy. Mostly, though, I am sad for me because Chase is my buddy and I will miss him terribly. We are close and we enjoy our time together. Overall, I think Chase will make a fine officer because he's well rounded, focused and likes order. I want Chase to get everything he can out of the military while giving back his best."

Serving in the military is a part of his family heritage stretching through many generations to include his great grandfather who died in the attack at Pearl Harbor.

"I'm very proud of my family and everyone who served. We were brought up expected to serve in the military. My older sister is at Langley AFB, Va. My brother is still in high school but will also probably serve."

Acceptance to the Academy does prove difficult in one aspect he said jokingly.

"When I graduate my sister and my dad, a retired master sergeant, will need to salute me, maybe my mom one day too."

His dad, taking the salute comment in stride, said he is quite happy with Chase's accomplishment and that he knew his son could do it.



**Chase's mother, Major Lisa Lehocky (left), a member of 301st Medical Squadron, will miss her son while at the academy, but believes he will become a great officer. (Courtesy Photo)**

"He is a truly good kid, and I know he'll do great as an officer and accomplish his dreams. We've taught him the Air Force is a great way of life – you get back exactly what you put in," said Ken Lehocky.

Recently, Air Force Academy officials held a picnic for those in the area who were selected.

"We had a great time that day but I was surprised that of all the people there I was the only one with prior military experience. I was also surprised that I knew several of them from high school and from around the area who had received athletic scholarships to the Academy. It will be great to continue to build upon those friendships," Chase said.

"He is going to make a difference wherever he goes – he is a bright kid that is combining a good education with military service – we are all very proud of the things he has done and will do," Major Lehocky said.

For Chase, the sky, and the universe, is the limit.



## PIRR members invited back to funded billets

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, signed a memo recently authorizing Participating Individual Ready Reserve members to enter paid status as Individual Mobilization Augmentees in order to meet AFRC fiscal year 2009 end-strength goals.

Some members currently in the PIRR are former IMAs who lost their positions in 2007 when approximately 5,000 IMA slots were unfunded during a reduction of 7,700 AFRC manpower authorizations. This Program Budget Decision 720 initiative helped pay for force modernization. Senior AFRC leaders worked closely with regular Air Force major commands to make tough decisions while maintaining mission capability.

In 2007, Air Force leaders decided to increase Air Force end strength. Consequently, AFRC recently was authorized to add approximately 4,200 positions for new, emerging and critical missions. Of those authorizations, approximately 800 are IMA positions.

Current PIRR members are being given preference in filling these IMA billets. A PIRR member can also be assigned as an overage in an IMA billet if a primary billet is not available or can be assigned against a “pseudo” billet. The overage position is authorized for only two years from date of assignment, so members should still be looking for a primary billet during the two-year period.

This program does not apply to colonels, chief master sergeants, academy liaison officers or Civil Air Patrol members.

For more information contact the respective program manager or base IMA administrator.

## Promotions



Jaqueline N. Ross, 301 FSS



Bret Densmore, 301 MXS  
Cody A. Ferris, 301 MXS  
Thomas B. Harris, 301 AMXS  
Jerry T. Myers, 301 AMXS  
Kermit Rodiruezpabon, 301 MXS  
John D. Souther, 301 AMXS  
Victoria M. Swink, 457 FS  
Bobak J. Zolfaghar, 301 AMDS



Donna R. Angarita, 301 LRS  
Darien J. Fleming, 301 MXS  
Michael Jones, 301 AMXS  
Benjamin W. Taylor, 301 LRS

## Newcomers

**301st Fighter Wing**  
SrA Samad I. Abdurrazzaaq

**301st Maintenance Squadron**  
TSgt John C. Osborne  
SrA Kyle F. McCnett  
SrA William S. Thetford  
A1C Brian D. Gehr

**301st Aircraft Maint. Squadron**  
SrA Curtis H. Morgan

**301st Security Forces Squadron**  
SrA Patrick D. Baker  
SrA Nathan D. Fink

**301st Medical Squadron**  
Capt Thomas D. Black  
SSgt Emily E. Nelson

**301st Civil Engineer Squadron**  
MSgt Linda A. Castanon  
SrA Anna L. Jordan

**457th Fighter Squadron**  
Maj Michael E. Barron

## Weapons Instructor Course announces selection board results

The 10th Air Force Weapons Instructor Course (WIC) selection board was held on Saturday, 11 July.

10AF/A3 nominates the following individuals to attend USAF WIC 10A:

Space Division: Primary: Capt Brian Withers, 710 COS, Langley AFB, VA; Alternate: Capt Jeremy J. Cotton, 6 SOPS, Schriever AFB, CO

F-16 Division: Primary: Maj Michael E. Barron, 301FW NAS JRB Ft. Worth, TX; Alternate: Maj Mark D. Van Brunt, 482FW Homestead ARB, FL; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate: Maj Saxon T. Yandell 944FW Luke AFB, AZ

Questions or comments can be directed to LtCol Bryan Cook 10AF/A3TW, DSN 739-3125, commercial 817-782-3125.

## What do YOU think?

The 301st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office wants to hear your opinion on the latest local and Air Force Reserve-wide news.

**BE HEARD!**

Have an idea for a story in your unit, or want to get published in an internationally-distributed publication?

Contact us at  
301FW.pa@carswell.af.mil  
or call us at DSN 739-7170,  
commercial 817-782-7170

# Parting Shot



SMSgt Beverlin Smith, a member of 301st Fighter Wing Finance, received her first Meritorious Service Medal, presented by the 301st Fighter Wing commander, Col. Richard Scobee. The award was presented as part of Colonel Scobee's first commanders call, held during the August Unit Training Assembly. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt Laura Spurling)