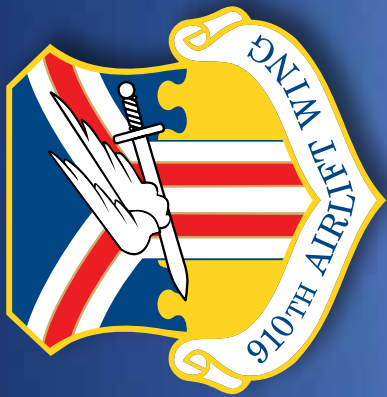


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Col. James Dignan

PUBLISHER

The 2016 Airstream Almanac is the third annual almanac of the 910th Airlift Wing, continuing the nearly 60-year tradition of the base magazine. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Air Force.

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ON THE COVER: A 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft sits outside hangar 305 at sunset as a static display for the USO of Northern Ohio's 75th Anniversary Celebration here Aug. 6, 2016. (Courtesy photo/Bob Jadloski)

IN THE BACKGROUND: Guests line up to walk through a C-130 on the flightline here during the 2016 Youngstown Air Reserve Station Open House, June 18. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric White)



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We Are You



14 UNITS
1,800 TOTAL EMPLOYEES
1,400 AIRMEN



8 C-130S
\$98.08 MILLION
ECONOMIC IMPACT
2 TENANT UNITS



60-YEAR HERITAGE
DOD'S ONLY AERIAL
SPRAY MISSION
4TH LARGEST EMPLOYER
IN THE VALLEY

Youngstown

DEPLOY • DELIVER • DEFEND



910th Airlift Wing Leadership



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910th Airlift Wing
Commander



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910th Mission Support
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Col. David C. Post
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Group Commander



Col. Rodney M. Waite
910th Medical
Squadron Commander



CMSgt. Robert J. Potts
910th Command Chief
Master Sergeant



**Colonel James D. Dignan
910th Airlift Wing Commander**

Effective Leadership Brings About Positive Change

“Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men.”
—Lao Tzu

Change is in the air; I see it everywhere and in every person I bump into or meet with these days. Are we turning into a culture of innovation and reinvention by design, or is it by necessity? Or as Charles Darwin said, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” Positive change can be a bittersweet experience, as there can be delight and exhilaration about the change coming, and at the same time, there can be a sense of loss, wrapped in admiration for what had been.

According to Webster’s, change “denotes a making or becoming distinctly different and implies either a radical transmutation of character or replacement with something else. To cause to become different, alter, transform, or convert.” In individual relationships many of us make the mistake of trying to change someone else instead of ourselves, and we invest all of our efforts in trying to “fix” or change the other person. Instead of accepting them and taking them as they are, we think they could be so much better if only they would act and do things our way. Well, we also tend to make the same mistakes in the squadrons and flights we are supposed to be leading.

In today’s global and fast-paced environment, organizational change is a strategic imperative for the U.S. Air Force. Unfortunately in the pursuit of change, of trying to be the best, of standing out from the pack, and of seeking higher and higher levels of status and power, supervisors and senior leaders in organizations instantaneously and impatiently clamor for the “latest and greatest ideas.” In our haste, we often forget fundamental and sound principles which are prerequisites for a successful change to occur and wonder why we are not making progress. Although managing change can be difficult, sticking to tried and true principles (e.g., USAF Practical Problem Solving Method or 8-step process) can help supervisors and leaders improve the chances of their organization’s successful transformation.

Competent Managers Produce Predictable and Consistent Results

“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.”
—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Perhaps the single most important skill needed by today’s supervisor is the ability to communicate with people, because our first-level supervisors are the team’s link to the larger organization. Capable supervisors must have the ability to effectively negotiate and use persuasion when necessary to ensure the success of the team. Through effective communication, supervisors support both individual and team achievements by creating guidelines for accomplishing tasks.

Supervisors should be chosen based on their ability to successfully lead others rather than on technical expertise, as in the past. Having a winning track record is the surest way to be considered competent; however, expertise in management skills is another dimension in competence. The ability to challenge, inspire, enable, model and encourage must be capably demonstrated if supervisors are to be seen as capable and competent.

A team builder can best be defined as a strong person who provides the substance that holds the team together in common purpose toward the right objective. In order for a team to progress from a group of relative strangers to a single cohesive unit, the team leader must understand the process and dynamics required for this transformation.

If you want your Airmen to work hard and be committed to your unit, you have to keep them in the loop. Open communication helps foster loyalty and gives Airmen a sense of pride. It helps them understand how their work contributes to our overall success. Setting deadlines and goals helps keep us focused and busy and motivates us to do our work. Talk to each of your Airmen about the Group and Wing goals, and work with them to set individual goals directly linked to our mission. Most importantly, make sure your Airmen understand their professional growth path in the Air Force.

Leadership and Management, Separate and Distinct Processes

“The superior man is distressed by the limitations of his ability; he is not distressed by the fact that men do not recognize the ability that he has.”
—Confucius

At the most basic level, management skills are primarily focused on the operations of today, and leadership skills are primarily focused on the operations of tomorrow. However, successful organizations, military organizations included, need both efficient supervisors and inspiring leaders in order to succeed. Effective organizations competently budget, plan, organize staff, control outcomes, and solve problems to achieve desired results. However, those same successful organizations also must establish and communicate a clear direction for the future, align our Airmen’s efforts with that direction, and motivate people within the organization to overcome obstacles to change and transform the organization as necessary. Leadership establishes direction by developing a vision for the future, communicating that vision and aligning the organization’s energy with that vision. Leadership and management are separate and distinct processes, but both are essential to organizational effectiveness.

In most cases, government agencies and military organizations function as bureaucracies; organizations typified by their formal processes, standardization and procedure. Generally speaking, bureaucracies are often called “over-managed” and “under-led.” I would suggest as we think about what skills we really want our young Airmen to possess, we think about things like the ability to establish and communicate a clear vision, the ability to align our efforts with the direction we need to be headed, and the ability to inspire people to overcome the obstacles that stand between them and the organization’s overall strategic vision.

Farewell Message

“May ample justice be done then here, and may the choicest of Heaven’s favours, both here and thereafter, attend those who, under Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others.”
—George Washington’s farewell message to his troops

After an exciting and challenging 45 month stint here with you at “the best guarded cornfield in NE Ohio,” I am bidding farewell to the YARS Family to pursue whatever other prospects the Air Force might send my way. As I move on, I would like to take a moment to remember and treasure our times together.

It has been great interacting and getting to know each and every one of you. Thank you all for your support, patience, and friendship over the past few years. It was a genuine pleasure to be welcomed with open arms into this YARS family. You are truly an amazing and special group of people and the Dignan family will undeniably miss being a part of this extended family.

I am looking forward to this new challenge and a new phase of my career. Remember, this is not a goodbye... only “hasta luego” or see you later.

Thanks for all you do, each and every day!

James D. Dignan

James D. Dignan, Col., USAF
Commander, 910th Airlift Wing



Chief Master Sgt. Robert J. Potts 910th Airlift Wing Command Chief

I have said the phrase often over the last few months, “This is an exciting time to be an Airman in the Air Force Reserve!” My reasons behind this statement are simple. We have the best technology with innovation happening on a grand scale, we have the best-trained and most technologically advanced Airmen ever assembled and we have a terrific vision for the future. As your Command Chief, I am privileged to get to meet and talk with many of you. It invigorates and motivates me each time I listen to your stories about what brought you to the 910th and more importantly what keeps you coming back each month. I also get the chance to travel around our Air Force and learn about what is happening across the Command. There are many challenges coming our way; together, I know that we can overcome obstacles and continue to be the best at what we do!

Today’s technology can be seen all around us, from the smartphones in our pockets to the technical advancements in weaponry. The most impressive technological advancements can be seen in the application of that technology to help save lives and in the employment of our military’s influence. Make no mistake; we are on a different kind of battlefield today. Peer and near-peer adversaries are investing billions in an attempt to compete with the United States military and threaten the security of the United States. In order to compete, the big brains within the DoD are partnering with defense contractors and defense industry leaders across the globe to anticipate and counter the technological advancements of our enemies. Within the Air Force Reserve, we have Airmen today working on technology which will be employed on the battlefield in 2035 and beyond. There are enormous challenges before us but the innovators of today will draft the battle plan of tomorrow. This is an exciting time to be an innovator in the Air Force!

I am continually impressed and inspired by the brilliance of our Airmen. Those of us with a few more gray hairs and years under our belts have served and continue to serve and adapt to the changes coming at us rapidly. Young or old, Airmen are at the cutting edge of technology; we must all continue to learn and grow to keep up. The Air Force offers exceptional opportunities for each of you to achieve your dreams and objectives for your personal future. Our nation depends on our ability to anticipate the needs of tomorrow and meet those requirements. We are counting on you to work hard, focus on today but have an eye on tomorrow. Each of us should have a plan for the next year to ten years down the road. You should be working to achieve your long-term goals. The needs of the mission, life and other priorities sometimes get in the way of our movement forward, but these should be temporary setbacks instead of a permanent obstacle. Don’t let these roadblocks keep you from reaching your goals. This is an exciting time to be a dreamer in the Air Force!

Our Air Force leadership, directed by Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, established the vision for our Air Force. In the “One Air Force” video, CSAF reinforces the vision that we are one Air Force. Guard, Reserve or Active Duty, we are one Air Force; each component brings its own strengths and the goal remains the same...fly, fight and win! As Air Force reservists we have to balance the demands of serving with our families and, for most of us, civilian jobs. We maintain the same level of readiness as our active duty counterparts; the demand on us is sometimes extreme. It can be a difficult challenge but, I know you’re up to it. Our families are key to our ability to serve; keep them informed about what is happening and include them in special events and encourage your spouse to get involved with the Key Spouse group. They are here to support everyone, and we depend on their involvement for deployment, redeployment and other events. It’s an exciting time to be an Airman!

The 910th Airlift Wing’s Mission to “Deploy, Deliver and Defend” rests with each of you. We depend on each of you to be prepared to meet and exceed our expectations. You are ready, trained and equipped to fly, fight and win in Air, Space and Cyberspace! In the immortal words of the 20th CSAF, Gen. Mark Welsh III, “Without air power...you lose!” Aim High Airmen!

Robert J. Potts

ROBERT J. POTTS, CMSGT, USAF
Command Chief

IN LOVING MEMORY...



May 9, 2016, Youngstown Air Reserve Station lost one of its greatest friends and most enduring supporters in Fred Kubli, Jr. (96), who passed away peacefully at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Home in Howland, with his loving wife of 72 years, Laverne, by his side. A member of the greatest generation, Mr. Kubli served his country with honor as a Soldier with the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a member of the 139th Evacuation Hospital Unit which liberated the Ebensee, Austria concentration camp.

Mr. Kubli joined the Youngstown Air Reserve Base Community Council as one of its founding members and served as the organization's treasurer for decades. Mr. Kubli was made the first ever honorary commander of the 910th Airlift Wing in 2010 and was later promoted to the rank of honorary brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. As a regular fixture of support and positive impact on morale at the 910th, Fred Kubli Jr. will be sorely missed. The base is, without question, better for having known him and for the faithful and selfless service he provided.

The 2016 Airstream Almanac is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Fred Kubli Jr.

*In fondest memory,
The 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office*



YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION

OPEN HOUSE

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION

Story by Eric White
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Deploy. Deliver. Defend. That's the mission of the 910th Airlift Wing. Usually, that mission statement has a worldwide emphasis, but for six hours on June 18, Youngstown Air Reserve Station deployed its personnel locally to deliver the message that the 910th is equipped, willing and ready to defend the United States. The venue for that mission was the 2016 Youngstown Air Reserve Station Open House.

The open house, the station's first since 2008 and the first large-scale public event since 2014's Thunder Over the Valley Air Show, provided the public an opportunity to see the unit's C-130H Hercules aircraft up close, learn about the unique mission and capabilities at YARS and meet the Service members who call the station home.

Col. James Dignan, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, initiated plans for the open house last year.

"The main reason for the open house is to get all our friends and family, neighbors from the Valley, onto the base and get them accustomed or re-accustomed to all the things we have going on here at YARS," said Dignan. "(We want to) get them onto an airplane and give the 910th the chance to be neighborly."

The station's aircraft ramp featured four Youngstown C-130 displays, each configured for a different mission. One was loaded with the 910th Aerial Spray Flight's Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS). The MASS is used to deliver aerial pesticides for eliminating disease-spreading insects, eliminate invasive weed species and unwanted vegetation in strategic areas and disperse oil spills on large bodies of water. The 910th operates the only aerial spray capability in the Department of Defense.

Another C-130 was set up for aeromedical evacuation with patient litters installed in the cargo area. One was arranged in a normal configuration for troop carrying, and the final C-130 was positioned with the cargo ramp partially open, ready to receive the goods from a K-loader full of palletized cargo. This latter setup is typical of the 910th's primary function of tactical airlift.

Several units from YARS also set up interactive displays. The base Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department had fire trucks available with equipment ready for guests to try on. 910th Security Forces displayed their weapon systems and protective gear. The

Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) shop had personnel on hand to show and explain night vision goggles, flight helmets, oxygen masks, 40-man life rafts, parachutes and other life-preserving equipment. AFE is responsible for maintaining this equipment which is available to aircrews during in-flight emergencies.

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haupt is the superintendent of the AFE shop with the 910th Operations Support Squadron. Manning the AFE display area, Haupt often had crowds of more than 25 people listening to him explain what he does for the 910th.

"I think telling the 910th story went well," said Haupt. "There were a lot of people who didn't even know we existed... It actually shows that we have involvement in the bigger picture of what goes on in the world today. I also think the facilities out here are incredible and most of the people here haven't ever seen them."

Haupt said many of the people with whom he interacted were blown away to learn what YARS has and offers to the United States' defense.

Beyond telling the 910th story, large public events like open houses provide Air Force Reserve recruiters a venue for generating relationships with potential recruits.

Senior Master Sgt. John Wood is the 910th's senior recruiter and set up an informational display with his team.

"This is giving us a great opportunity to meet people who don't know about all the excellent opportunities available with the Air Force Reserve right here in Vienna," said Wood. "This installation is close to home for many of them and is a great place to serve in the Air Force Reserve while working full-time civilian jobs, going to school or raising a family."

By midway through the event, the recruitment staff had generated approximately 25 positive leads from interested potential recruits.

Fifteen-year-old Cody Stokes of Warren heard about the event through a friend whose mom is employed by the air station.

"I thought the open house was really fun," said Stokes. "I got to walk around and see a lot of interesting things. The airplanes were really neat."

The event attracted approximately 7,000 visitors. The 2016 YARS Open House was a prelude to the Thunder Over the Valley Air Show featuring the United States Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, scheduled for June 17-18, 2017.

Col. James Dignan, commander, Lt. Col. Klavens Noel, chaplain, and Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., Public Affairs superintendent, all with the 910th Airlift Wing, salute as Tech. Sgt. Marshall Hunsaker, broadcast journalist, sings the National Anthem.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Bugaj, a 910th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, helps an open house guest try on a protective vest and helmet.

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haupt, superintendent of aircrew flight equipment with the 910th Operations Support Squadron here, helps 13-year-old open house guest Ethan Hoffman try on a flight helmet and parachute.

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Rogers, an aerial spray maintainer with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, explains the components of the Modular Aerial Spray System.

Senior Master Sgt. John Wood, Tech. Sgt. Jason Corradi and Master Sgt. Joe Poltor, all recruiters for the 910th Airlift Wing, talk with young open house guests about the opportunities in the Air Force Reserve.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rick Lisum



U.S. Air Force photo by Mr. Eric White



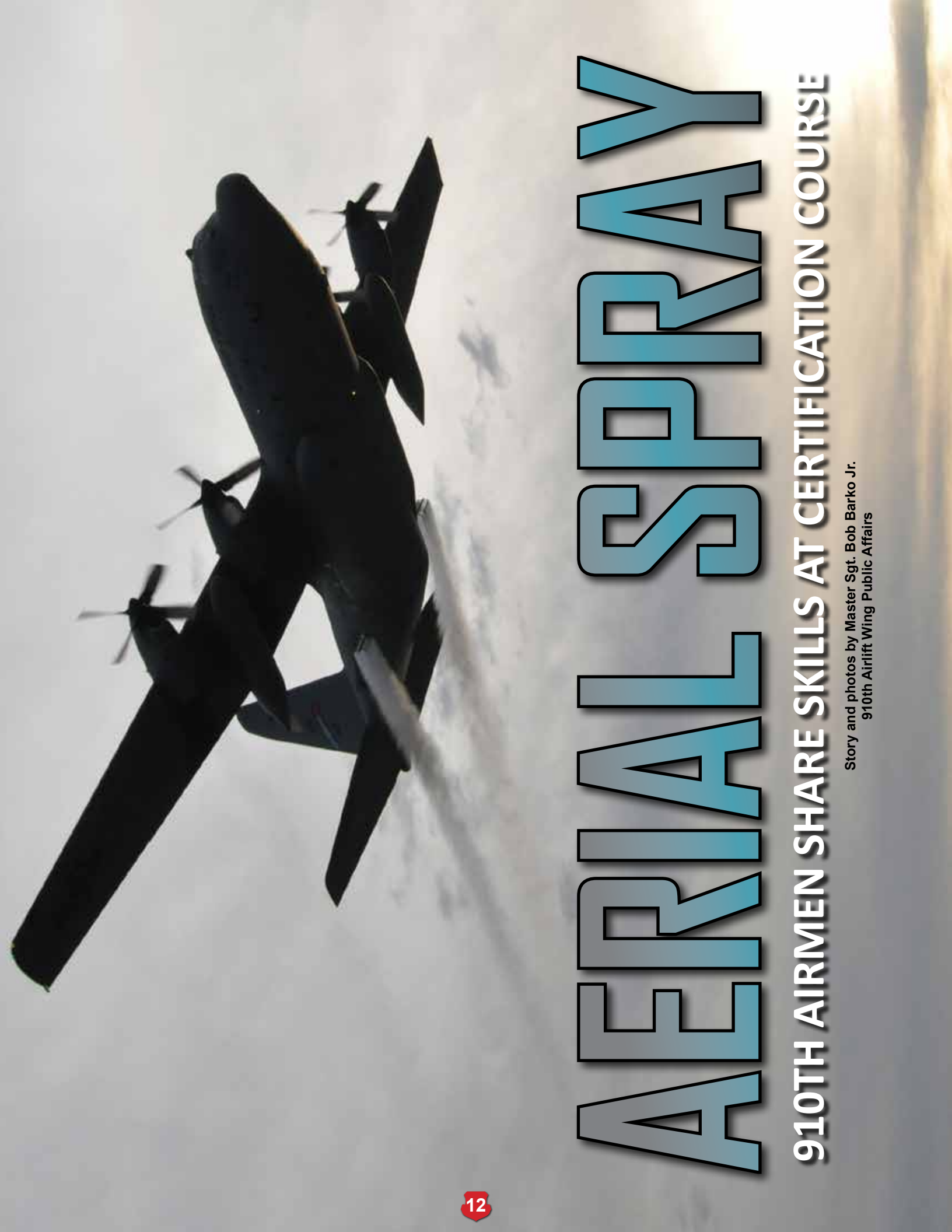
U.S. Air Force photo by Mr. Eric White



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Kocin



U.S. Air Force photo by Mr. Eric White



AERIAL SPRAY

910TH AIRMEN SHARE SKILLS AT CERTIFICATION COURSE

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Karl Haagsma, an entomologist assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's Aerial Spray unit, leads an aerial spray mapping exercise during the Department of Defense (DoD) Aerial Spray Certification Course at the Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center.

Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer (right), an aerial-spray qualified navigator assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's aerial spray team, talks with participants of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Certification Course on the flight deck of one of the wing's aerial spray modified C-130 aircraft.

(Left) A modified 910th C-130 aircraft sprays water simulating a pesticide solution during a field exercise as part of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Certification Course at the Lee County Mosquito Control District flightline.

Citizen Airmen from the Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing's highly-specialized aerial spray unit facilitated the Department of Defense's (DoD) Aerial Spray Certification Course at the Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center, Florida, Jan. 11-14, 2016.

According to course materials, participants are acquainted with aerial application of pesticides, especially as it relates to the U.S. military. Graduates of the course are also certified to be ground supervisors of aerial spray operations, monitor pest control contracts using aerial spray and, if they are command-level pest management professionals, approve DoD aerial spray projects.

Although the idea and practice of protecting troops on the ground by destroying disease-carrying insects from the air has been around for 70 years, the technology and aircraft involved have evolved. The opportunity to see the tools used in aerial spray operations and the requirement for certification or recertification brought nearly a dozen DoD military and civilian personnel pest control professionals to participate in the course.

Course topics included aerial spray theory, mapping and math, C-130 operations, public affairs, aerial spray contracting and more. Participants also viewed static displays of aerial spray aircraft and equipment and took part in a field exercise.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Fink, a pest management supervisor assigned to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, said he has been interested in the aerial spray aspect of pest management since he started his military career.

"I've wanted to attend this course since I got in," said Fink. "This is good info to have about this capability."

The 910th personnel said the Lee County facility, located just outside Ft. Myers, is an outstanding location to conduct the training.

"This is a collaborative effort with Florida Mosquito Control Association, and the goal is continuing education and certification," said course director Lt. Col. Karl Haagsma, one of two full-time entomologists assigned to the 910th. "It's really about honing skills."

Haagsma said the course has been hosted at the Lee County facility three times in the last decade. He also said refresher courses are held at the 910th's home installation during the years between the ones when the Florida course is held.

The 910th, host to DoD's only aerial spray capability, is based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

Personnel assigned to the 910th's aerial spray unit include spray-qualified pilots, loadmasters who double as Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS) operators and specialized maintenance personnel and, of course, the entomologists, affectionately known as the 'bug docs.'

A quartet of traditional reservist 'bug docs' bring a vast skill set and knowledge base from their civilian jobs to their positions as Air Force Reserve entomologists and as course instructors. Lt. Col. Tom Janousek is a pest consultant based in Omaha, Nebraska when he is not working with the 910th. Lt. Col. Don Teig is the Air Force pest management subject matter expert at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Maj. Kirk Mundal brings eight years of Navy active duty experience as a medical entomologist to the team and Maj. Jen Remmers is a disease vector management consultant in her civilian career.

"The goal of aerial spray is to achieve maximum kill of the target pest with minimal

impact on the environment," Remmers said, during her opening presentation at the course.

According to the 910th's entomologists, the 910th's capability is used to spray areas larger than 5,000 acres from altitudes above the ground of 100 to 150 feet, depending on the type of spraying being done. Recently, after nearly a decade of careful preparation, the wing has started conducting aerial spray operations after dark using night vision technology at an altitude above the earth of 300 feet. Ground application methods or private enterprise contracted aircraft take care of smaller areas that are not practical or cost-effective for the unit's large planes to handle.

The 910th's unique capability has taken the aerial spray team all over the country to not only eliminate mosquitoes, sand flies, filth flies and other pest insects on DoD installations and, in some cases, nearby communities, but to also eliminate unwanted vegetation on bombing ranges as well

as assist during the response to the Deepwater Horizon incident, the worst oil spill in U.S. history, in 2010.

"Our wartime mission is to protect U.S. troops from insect-carried diseases," said Maj. Steve Stroney, 910th chief of aerial spray. "Anytime we conduct spray operations around the country, we are training our personnel to carry out that tasking."

"It is critical for us to know everything we can about the product we are using, how it comes out of our aircraft and what the effects of the products are," said Lt. Col. Mark Breidenbaugh, 910th chief entomologist. "Ultimately, this course is about the judicious use of aerial spray products in eliminating the targets and protecting troops."

"The goal of aerial spray is to achieve maximum kill of the target pest with minimal impact on the environment."



ACTIVE SHOOTER EXERCISE

YARS' response tested

Story and photos by Mr. Eric White
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Special Agent Robert Brown observes as Staff Sgt. Marcus Weisbarth and Tech. Sgt. Richard Lape are debriefed after neutralizing an active shooter in a training exercise.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Skarba inspects his training weapon before participating in an active shooter response exercise.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Skarba, 910th Security Forces Squadron training program manager, walks through the base supply building firing blank rounds from an M-4 training rifle.

Robert Brown, special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, debriefs building occupants following an active shooter response training exercise.



Tech. Sgt. Richard Lape and Staff Sgt. Marcus Weisbarth search the building for threats after neutralizing an active shooter in a training exercise.

“This is only a drill. This is only a drill.” Amplified by a megaphone, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Boothe’s voice echoes through the lobby of the base supply building here, the morning of July 26, 2016.

“Exercise. Exercise. Exercise.”

The phrase indicates to base personnel that a training exercise is about to begin. For a few seconds, an eerie silence hangs in the room before Master Sgt. Michael Skraba, training manager for the 910th Security Forces Squadron, shatters it with an eruption of gunfire as he shoots blanks from an M-4 training rifle. The first few rounds draw startled noises from building workers, followed by the sounds of footsteps and doors shutting quickly. Skraba is dressed in a nondescript sweat suit, a black facemask and a bright yellow reflective training vest, portraying an active shooter for a base-wide exercise.

“It was a little eerie, dressed up in that gear and walking through the building like that,” said Skraba. “But we felt the exercise would be more beneficial if we could make it realistic.”

As Skraba traipses through the building firing more blanks, Earle Walker Jr., building manager for base supply, is locked in his office calling the 910th Security Forces Squadron to report the situation. Boothe, superintendent of the 910th Inspector General Inspections Directorate, supervises the exercise to observe how building workers and first responders handle the situation.

“The overall goal of this scenario was to exercise, evaluate and improve the installation’s ability to prepare for and respond to an active shooter incident at YARS,” said Boothe after the exercise.

In previous active shooter exercises, coordinators have used training weapons with built in sound effects or 2-by-4-inch boards smacked together to simulate gunfire, but the noise wasn’t loud enough to alert all building

occupants. This was the first time blank rounds were used for an active shooter exercise at YARS. Wing Inspection Team (WIT) members said that the blank rounds were very effective, carrying from the lobby of the building, where they were discharged, to the far end of the building, getting the attention of all occupants. Though effective, using blank rounds required extra precaution from exercise coordinators.

During the scenario, Skraba was escorted by 910th Security Forces Squadron Quality Assurance Program Manager Master Sgt. Phillip Brady III, who acted as a bodyguard in case the exercise was mistaken for an actual active shooter incident. Al Navecky Jr. from the Wing Safety office supervised to ensure the scenario was run safely for all those involved.

Most building occupants were able to barricade themselves in the far end of the building behind several locked doors, while a few office workers closer to the lobby only had time to close and lock their office doors. The rapid reaction of the building’s occupants kept Skraba from finding any simulated victims. Just a few minutes after Walker placed the 911 call, a Security Forces fire team of Tech. Sgt. Richard Lape and Staff Sgt. Marcus Weisbarth entered the lobby with M-9 training weapons at the ready. They immediately spotted Skrabra searching for building occupants at the end of a long hallway and vocalized the simulated discharge of their weapons, neutralizing the active shooter.

Master Sgt. John Falfas, physical security program manager for the 910th Security Forces Squadron, managed the exercise from the SFS perspective, ensuring building managers and base defenders were properly tested and responded accordingly.

Falfas said that inspectors evaluated four facilities including the supply building with the active shooter, two buildings that followed

evacuation procedures and one that followed lockdown procedures. The exercise was also intended to test and practice use of mass notification systems for quickly alerting base personnel to emergency situations.

“All the notification systems worked flawlessly, we were able to provide direct guidance to facilities and facility managers,” said Falfas. “As for the response from our Security Forces team, it was extremely fast and effective when it came to terminating the threat. We have well trained defenders protecting our base populace and assets that will respond in a moment’s notice.”

After Skraba was neutralized, Boothe gathered building occupants for a debriefing. Special Agent Robert Brown from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, who also observed the exercise, addressed building residents on what would take place after a real-world active shooter event has occurred. Once the shooter has been neutralized and victims have been tended to, the entire building would be treated as a crime scene and all building residents as witnesses, said Brown. He cautioned that it may be several hours before the witnesses are released, as investigators would be working to gather as much information on the incident as possible. He stressed that cooperation and mindfulness in not disturbing the crime scene are critical to a successful investigation.

The exercise followed active shooter, shelter-in-place and fire evacuation training for building managers, held the week prior. The training instructed building managers and alternates on appropriate procedures for improving the safety of Wing personnel and base visitors during dangerous emergency situations.

“I am extremely pleased how the exercise turned out,” said Falfas. “Our facility managers and defenders performed in an outstanding manner.”



Lt. Col. Frank Galati, chief of standards and evaluation with the 757th Airlift Squadron, explains the details of a C-130 Spray Mission to Maj. Gen. Stayce Harris, 22nd Air Force Commander here Dec. 5, 2015. Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer, aerial spray flight chief, listens in.

22nd Air Force commander, AFRC command chief visit YARS

**Story by Tech. Sgt. Jim Brock
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

Santa Claus wasn't the only visitor to the 910th Airlift Wing during the December UTA. 22nd Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Stayce D. Harris and Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sgt. Cameron B. Kirksey met with Air Force Reservists to address concerns for members of the 910th.

The general met with 910th AW group commanders and first sergeants and addressed the entire Wing during Commander's Call.

"This is part of my unit visits to all the Wings," said Harris. "What has a special place in my heart though are our special missions like spray, hurricane hunters and fire fighters, because these missions specifically help those in our homeland."

Harris toured the aerial spray maintenance facility and a specially-modified aerial spray C-130H Hercules aircraft. Weather conditions cancelled a proposed spray demonstration, but aircrew members gave Harris a detailed briefing on inflight operations during a typical C-130 spray mission.

"It's phenomenal to learn so much more about the mission and how we at 22nd Air

Force can advocate more for this specific spray mission here at Youngstown," said Harris.

Kirksey met with members of the 910th enlisted councils, first sergeants and chief master sergeants during his visit. The Chief addressed questions from all enlisted members ranging from Enlisted Performance Reports (EPRs) and manning issues to the future of the flying mission at the 910th.

"A typical unit visit involves hearing the concerns of our Airmen up close and personal," said Kirksey. "As with all unit visits, we got the candid feedback we needed and have a vector to take back to the command."

Kirksey visited many units including the 76th Aerial Port Squadron and Aerial Spray Flight and attended the morning briefing and shift change for the 910th Security Forces Squadron. He also attended the retirement of 910th Airlift Wing Command Chief Steven Larwood.

"The unit visits also help me to come out and see the health and welfare of the fleet, and to congratulate our men and women for what they do on a part time basis and a volunteer basis," said Kirksey.

22nd Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant Michael F. Thorpe also visited with Airmen during the weekend.



Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, command chief of Air Force Reserve Command, addresses members of the 910th Security Forces Squadron during shift change.



Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Kirksey, command chief of Air Force Reserve Command, answers questions from members of the 910th Security Forces Squadron during shift change here.

Air Force Reserve's first female firefighter began career at 910th

Story by Mr. Eric White
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In 1975, 23-year-old Fran Taylor decided she wanted to serve her country and continue a family legacy of military service, having a father and uncle who served during World War II. Taylor visited an Air Force Reserve (AFR) recruiter here to discuss her options. After scoring very well on her Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) tests, there were few limitations on what career she could pursue. Working in radiology at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and studying mathematics at Youngstown State University might have compelled Taylor to enlist in a medical or financial field, but she told her recruiter she wanted to do something different.

As Taylor and her recruiter flipped through the book of Air Force jobs, her recruiter said, "Do you want to be a firefighter? We don't have any female firefighters."

"Oh, that sounds good," Fran said.

"Really?" the recruiter replied, laughing.

Taylor's recruiter took her down to the base fire station. They pulled out some fire hose, attached it to a fire hydrant and let Fran get a first-hand feel for what she'd be doing. The fire chief insisted that fire fighting wasn't a career she wanted to pursue.

Fran didn't listen.

Taylor began her career at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for Basic Military Training before heading to Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, which housed the Air Force fire fighting technical school. Once there, she learned that not only were there no female firefighters in the AFR, but there never were, making her the first. She heard that the first active duty Air Force female firefighter had gone through the technical school only two months earlier.

Because women were so new to the military fire fighting field, neither the infrastructure nor the culture of the school had caught up.

"There was a thousand-man dorm for the guys," said Taylor, "but they kept me with a welder's squadron where they had one flight of women."

Her instructors and many of her fellow students told her she couldn't make it, though some were supportive. She recalls going into several fires per day as some of her instructors tried to overwhelm and discourage her, whereas most of the men complained they didn't get enough live fire training opportunities. The extra pressure motivated her, as she wanted to prove that she was just as capable as her peers and could make it through the course.

"The more (my instructor) told me I couldn't do it, the more determined I was to do it," said Taylor.

There were other complications. Her clothing

and uniforms were designed for her male counterparts. They never fit right and needed altered. Taylor wore size five shoes but was issued size ten boots.

"I'd go up to get on the truck and the boot would stay there on the ground," said Taylor, laughing, "But you just suck it up and move on."

Taylor said she was in good shape going into the school, having practiced Tae Kwan Do and being an avid cyclist. The physical side wasn't too bad, but the emotional side was challenging, and she often had to bite her tongue, said Taylor.

While at Chanute, Fran met her future husband, John, who was in training to be an Active Duty Air Force firefighter. In his trademark career humor, John tells everyone that Fran swept him off his feet, alluding to the firefighter's carry for rescuing victims. John recalls that by the time Fran graduated, about 90 percent of her male peers had become supportive, but there were still those who opposed her.

"They were out to put her out," John said. "Our instructors even told us that. She was very slight of build, very feminine, but she fooled all of us, had a tenacity you wouldn't believe."

After technical school, Fran came to Youngstown Air Reserve Station for duty with the 910th Tactical Fighter Group, now the 910th Airlift Wing, while John went to Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

A year later, they were married, and Fran transferred to the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell as a Reservist. Early in their relationship, Fran and John often heard the saying, "tech school romances don't last." They'll celebrate their 40th anniversary in August this year.

Fran Taylor wasn't just a trendsetter for the Air Force. While serving with the 908th as a Reservist, Fran applied for a job with the Fire Department in Montgomery, Alabama. Her test scores were high enough that she became the first paid full-time female firefighter in the state, garnering widespread media attention.

Fran didn't work with or encounter another female firefighter for her first four years as a Reservist. She eventually went Active Duty to follow her husband to an assignment at Zweibrücken Air Base, Germany. She spent 14 years on Active Duty before switching back to the Reserve once her husband retired from the Air Force in 1994. The couple settled in the Youngstown area with their two children, and Fran continued service as a Reserve firefighter until her



Then Staff Sgt. Fran Taylor with her husband Staff Sgt. John Taylor, a distinguished graduate from NCO Leadership School at what was then Grissom Air Force Base, Ind. while it was still an active duty installation. (U.S. Air Force/Courtesy Photo.)

retirement as a master sergeant in 2007.

Today, John and Fran both work for the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, sharing an office with desks about ten feet apart. Fran is the assistant chief of fire prevention and John is the fire inspector. Having witnessed the devastation fire can cause, Fran relishes the opportunity to help YARS personnel stay safe by regularly inspecting fire extinguishers, checking work areas for possible hazards and training personnel on fire safety and prevention. Since returning to YARS, she's had several opportunities to work with other female firefighters as the industry normalizes what was once unheard of.

"I think it's a great decision to go into the military," said Fran. "It gives you so much self-confidence and self-discipline. There's just so much opportunity out there, and really I think it would be a great career for anyone, even if you just stay in for a four year assignment."

Although her search for something different led her to a military career that began with adversity and challenged her to overcome several obstacles, Fran says there's nothing she'd change about her experiences.

"It's a great thing going into any branch of the military and getting that experience," said Fran. "It prepares you for life, because life can be tough out there. I think you'll see that with a lot of female veterans you encounter."

By all accounts that something different worked out pretty well for Fran Taylor.



NEWTON FALLS, Ohio—Members of the Air Force Reserve’s 910th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), based at nearby Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS), Ohio, put the finishing touches on a project to rebuild a wooden staircase leading from the Veteran’s Park to the riverside here, Aug. 25, 2016.

The three-week project for 910th Citizen Airmen to demolish the existing stairs and design and build the new stairs, which started on Aug. 8, 2016, is part of the Air Force Community Partnership Program (AFCPP), ongoing locally since June 2014. The AFCPP is designed to identify and develop mutually beneficial partnerships between Air Force installations and surrounding communities.

The stairs rebuilding project has been in the works since it was identified during AFCPP meetings held at YARS and required coordination between Air Force Reserve and city officials to work details such as project costs, liability issues and more.

The authority for the 910th AW to complete the work in Newton Falls is granted by a section of the U.S. Code and the Department of Defense Instruction outlining Realistic Military Training (RMT) Off Federal Real Property.

Jack Haney, Newton Falls City Manager, said city officials and 910th AW leadership reached an agreement where the city provided project materials and the 910th AW provided engineering and manpower at no cost to the city. He also said it provided the Air Force Reservists the chance to practice their skills and perform hands-on training.

“Without this partnership, the city did not have the resources to complete this project,” said Haney. “It’s been an honor to work with the 910th and their personnel. They exemplify the best in the nation.”

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Phillips, 910th CES heavy repair superintendent, noted the project provided a unique setting for the Citizen Airmen to get on-the-job training.

“These guys had a great time on this project. They got to practice their craft in an off-base environment. They were able to hone skills they can use down range,” Phillips said. “These are the same techniques our team would use to build a gazebo or a deck at an overseas base.”

Senior Airman Charles Tazewell, a 910th CES Structural Engineer, said the structural engineer team developed great camaraderie during the project and there was always something to learn.

“These are the best projects. Real life and hands on,” Tazewell said. “Our team really gelled out here and what one person doesn’t know, someone else does. That teamwork gets the job done.”

Retired Air Force Reserve Col. Kevin Riley, special assistant to the 910th AW commander, said the wing is excited to participate in this mutually beneficial partnership with the City of Newton Falls.

“This RMT project is truly a win-win for the 910th and Newton Falls. Our Citizen Airmen have the opportunity to hone skills they need to do their jobs anywhere in the world right here in the Mahoning Valley,” Riley said. “In return, the city is able to utilize Air Force Reserve resources to help them realize the vision of having this landmark completely rebuilt.”

Tazewell said many people stopped to compliment the 910th CES team on their efforts.

“The old stairs had been here for about 30 years and had run their course. These new ones will be here for years to come,” Tazewell said. “People were really excited to see the project being done and that the stairs would be ready very soon.”

The city manager agreed that the completed project will hold a special place in the hearts of the residents of Newton Falls. The training gained by 910th members will contribute to their future success.

“This work will be appreciated for years to come,” said Haney. “This is a visible and lasting example of the cooperation between the 910th and a local community.”



Tech. Sgt. David Morrison, a Civil Engineer structural engineer, uses a nail gun to secure a piece of treated lumber to the new staircase leading from the Veteran's Park to the riverside.

Senior Airman Mike Dibble, a Civil Engineer structural engineer, measures a piece of treated lumber on the new staircase while Staff Sgt. Dominick Tami, also a Civil Engineer structural engineer, observes his work.

Staff Sgt. Dominick Tami, a Civil Engineer structural engineer, uses a nail gun to secure a piece of treated lumber to the new staircase



Senior Master Sgt. Brian Phillips, Civil Engineer heavy repair superintendent, talks with Tech. Sgt. David Morrison (right) and Staff Sgt. Dominick Tami (center), both Civil Engineer structural engineers.

Senior Airman Charles Tazewell, a Civil Engineer structural engineer, uses a chop saw to cut a board near the new staircase while Senior Airman Mike Dibble, also a Civil Engineer Structural Engineer, steadies the beam.

AIRMEN QUALIFY ON M4 TO PREP FOR THE FIGHT

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. James Brock
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Airmen must always be prepared for a fight. All Airmen, regardless of duty title, must demonstrate qualification with the M4A2 rifle; 910th Combat Arms Instructors (CAI) ensure they have this essential skill.

Before stepping onto the firing range, Air Force Reserve members must complete the classroom portion of the course.

Senior Airman Danielle Massengill is a CAI assigned to the 910th Security Forces Squadron.

"I want my students to feel comfortable with the weapon, because ultimately their safety and what they learn in the classroom is my responsibility. I want them to feel safe handling the weapon and proficient when they go out to the range," said Massengill.

Students learn weapon

familiarization through assembly and disassembly, as well as function checks and general information about the weapon's capabilities. On the firing range, instructors teach basic rifle marksmanship and short range combat skills.

"This is a course for non-combat troops," said CAI Staff Sgt. Matthew Nunemaker. "It's not a course for EOD, security forces or special forces," added Nunemaker.

Known as Red Hats, Combat Arms Maintainers and Instructors belong to the Security Forces Squadron but perform different duties than Security Forces patrolmen.

"Our job is to teach shooters as well as repair weapons and supply ammunition," said CAI Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harris. "Patrolmen deal with threats to the base and its assets, as well as control entry to the base."

Nunemaker said that Unit mission and individual deployment requirements determine the frequency of qualifying with the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol.



Senior Airman Beau Berkshire, a member of the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron, fires his M4 rifle during a qualification course.



910th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Instructor Tech. Sgt. Thomas Harris instructs Staff Sgt. Brian Young during the M4 Rifle qualification course.



Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Burrows, a Career Development Technician for the 910th Force Support Squadron watches her daughter, Lyric, feed a camel during Family Day.



Master Sgt. Nathan Anderson, a C-130 crew chief, plays miniature golf with his daughter and son.

YARS HOSTS FAMILY DAY OVER AUGUST UTA

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. James Brock
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 910th Airlift Wing hosted their annual Family Day event here Aug. 7, 2016. Activities included a kids' fun zone, petting zoo, cookout lunch, 5k Color Run sponsored by the 5/6 Council and a Bob Hope Impersonator.

"It is an opportunity for us to celebrate the important relationship between the family member, our Airmen and their duty here at the Wing," said 910th AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert J. Potts. "Without a supportive family I would not have been able to continue my service in the Air Force, and that's true with everybody."

910th Security Forces Squadron provided a pistol shooting simulator in Hangar 295. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Youngstown State University and several other schools were also on hand to answer questions.

"It's a morale booster for the families to come out and see what we do," said 910th Force Support Squadron Career Development Technician Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Burrows. Burrows, 12-year veteran of the 910th, enjoyed the day with her daughter Lyric.

The event kicked off with a Commanders Call, followed by a lunch served in Hangar 305. A C-130 Hercules aircraft was on display for tours between Hanger 305 and the Aerial Spray Facility.

Master Sgt. Nathan Anderson, a 16-year veteran of the 910th Maintenance Squadron said that he and his family have been attending Family Day for the last 10 years. Anderson's daughter Molly (age 8), and son Owen (age 3), attended the event.

"It's just a great day to relax and hang out together," said Anderson.

FEDERAL PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP HELD AT YARS

Story by Mr. Eric White
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Approximately 140 small-business owners and representatives attended a Federal Procurement Workshop held at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, April 18. The event was organized by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan and featured representatives from the Small Business Administration and Mahoning Valley Technical Assistance Center.

According to event invitations from Brown's office, the workshop was intended as a forum where entrepreneurs would be able to learn from experts on the process, qualifications and opportunities to become a federal contractor. The workshop was open to representatives from small businesses, with a focus on those owned by veterans.

After introductory remarks from the event hosts, Stephen Coleman, a veteran and president of Northstar Contracting, Inc., shared his business story. Guests then participated in two expert panel forums, one for business financing and one for government contracting featuring representatives from the YARS contracting office.

Ryan, as an event coordinator, recognized the economic impact of YARS and expressed his desire to see local small businesses benefit through government contracts.

"You've got about 100 million dollars that comes through this air base in economic impact,"

said Ryan. "And yeah, you think of Boeing and Lockheed Martin and the big industrial defense manufacturers, but they all have suppliers... and we want to help our local companies be able to navigate that complexity."

The panels addressed several of the roadblocks that keep small businesses from pursuing government contracts, whether ignorance on where to find information on available contracts or how to become a pre-approved federal contractor.

"Sometimes people get intimidated about doing business with the federal government or doing business with the department of defense," said Ryan. "And while it can be intimidating, at the same time if you put a little bit of time in, it can yield some pretty good results."

As the fourth largest employer in the Valley, with nearly 1800 employees, operations at YARS require myriad services. Col. James Dignan, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, has operational control of the installation.

"The main thing for our small companies here (is) what we call base operating support," said Dignan. "We have everything that a small town

or city has. If they can compete and be ready to provide those kinds of services... those things that we need and we consume on a daily basis here, and those small businesses can get on the pre-approved list so that they can compete, that's a great way to start."

Installation modernization and advancement initiatives bring regular construction projects to the base. Funding was recently approved for a new state-of-the-art firing range in order to meet the training requirements of Airmen assigned to YARS. Groundbreaking is expected sometime this summer, and Air Force Community Partnerships (AFCP) may allow off base law-enforcement agencies to use the range.

"The local firms may or may not be able to compete for an entire project," said Dignan, "but (they may be able to compete for portions of a project), say for the firing range. Maybe they have a roofing expert here in the valley that can do the type of roof they need. If they can get on the list as a pre-approved government contractor, then that opens up another opportunity for our local businesses."

According to YARS' economic impact report, the installation spent more than \$6 million on construction and more than \$5 million on services in fiscal year 2015. The report estimates that nearly 500 local jobs were created as a result of the installation's economic impact.

"The report estimates that nearly 500 local jobs were created as a result of the installation's economic impact."

LAPE SELECTED FOR MARATHON

Story Tech. Sgt. Jim Brock
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

910th Security Forces Staff Sgt. Richard Lape was selected to represent Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) in the 20th edition of the Air Force Marathon at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio Sept. 17, 2016. From a pool of more than 80 applicants, AFRC selects four members to run the half marathon and three for the full marathon.

Lape said that AFRC chooses team members based on the fitness selection form (Air Force form 303) and information provided by runners on their history of races run and finishing times.

Lape comes from a family of runners. His father and seven of his nine siblings were avid participants in the sport. Lape began running when he was 13 in the seventh grade. In High School, Lape was a three-time school record holder, top five all-time fastest cross country runner in the school's history and member of the All-Ohio Track and Field Team in 2007.

"After high school, I attended Youngstown

State University on an athletic scholarship, where I was a six-time conference placer in track and field, a school record holder in the 4x800 meter relay and a three-time conference placer in cross country," said Lape.

In 2012, Lape competed in his first Air Force marathon, finishing in 3 hours, 10 minutes, 41 seconds, placing 63rd out of 3,300 runners.

"I'm doing a 14-week training plan for this race, with distances getting progressively longer each week," said Lape. "As long as you get in a long run and speed work out, you'll be good."

Lape said that once a week he performs a speed workout that includes lots of hills. Lape also competes in local road races ranging from 5,000 meters (5k) to 10,000 meters (10k).

According to the official event website, the first official Air Force Marathon was held on September 20, 1997, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Air Force. The course on the Wright Patterson Air Force Base takes runners everywhere from the flight line to the Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Wright Brothers Memorial Monument.



Staff Sgt. Richard Lape, a member of 910th Security Forces Squadron, patrols the base here June 5, 2016. Lape is representing Air Force Reserve Command in the 20th edition of the Air Force Marathon on Sept. 17, 2016 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Capt. Nick "Ripper" Lockhart (right), an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the 93rd Fighter Squadron, points out a feature on an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft to a group of civic leaders on the flightline of Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida.

910th launches valley civic leaders to tour South Florida military installations

**Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

The 910th Airlift Wing, based here, launched a Civic Leader Tour (CLT) consisting of 35 civic leaders and their military escorts to Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West and Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, April 28-29, 2016.

The tour departed Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) in the early morning of April 28, heading south aboard a 910th C-130H Hercules aircraft for a two-day, one-night event designed to give attendees a better understanding of the Air Force Reserve and Joint Operation missions and how they differ from base to base around the country. During the flight to the Florida Keys, attendees were able to visit the aircraft flight deck and interact with aircrew and loadmasters as mission requirements allowed.

Upon arrival at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, attendees toured the NAS Tactical Combat Training System, a system designed to aid in the training of Navy combat pilots, then were greeted and briefed by the NAS Skipper on the local mission including how 910th aircrews receive water survival training at NAS Key West. After the commander's mission briefing and lunch, the attendees visited the NAS adversary aircraft

squadron. This visit included a mission briefing on the unit's role of playing "bad guys" during combat pilot training flying scenarios, a hangar tour and an opportunity to take an up-close look at one of the aircraft assigned to the squadron.

Following check-in at the group's overnight lodging location and some personal time, CLT attendees attended a social networking event at one of the local establishments in Old Town Key West followed by a sunset sea cruise. These events allowed a relaxed atmosphere for attendees to learn about ways to support the 910th and YARS including membership opportunities in the Youngstown Air Reserve Base community Council and the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission.

The tour continued the morning of April 29 when the attendees returned to NAS Key West to board the 910th's C-130 aircraft to make the short trip to Homestead, home of the 482nd Fighter Wing, flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Upon arrival at Homestead, the group received a mission briefing from the 482nd commander. The tour attendees also heard from the Homestead and Miami-Dade County Pest Management team about their fight with the local mosquito population and how the 910th's unique aerial spray capability plays a big role in that ongoing Sunshine State battle. The attendees tour

of Homestead concluded with the chance to see an F-16 aircraft static display, speak with a fighter pilot and observe F-16 launches from an edge of the runway vantage point.

After the Homestead visit wrapped up, the group boarded the 910th C-130 aircraft to journey back to YARS and conclude the two-day civic leader tour. During the return flight, attendees were again able to visit the flight deck and interact with aircrew and loadmasters as mission requirements allowed.

According to Department of Defense (DoD) regulations, Civic Leader Tours are held in the best interest of DoD, Air Force (AF) and Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) public affairs objectives and invitees are civic leaders, employers

or other audiences which can make positive contributions to the public's understanding of the missions of the DoD, AF and AFRC.

"We want you to help tell our story; share what you have seen over the last two days with the people you know out in the community," 910th Airlift Wing Commander Col. James Dignan told the civic leaders at the end of the tour. "Tell them about the great things the Air Force Reserve and our sister services are doing in Northeast Ohio, in South Florida and all around the world."

"We want you to help tell our story..."



Brenda Rider, a bailiff with the Youngstown, Ohio Municipal Court, peers into the cockpit of an F-5N aggressor fighter jet assigned to the VFC-111 "Sundowners" Fighter Composite Squadron in a hangar at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida.



Youngstown, Ohio Mayor John McNally photographs of an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, assigned to the 482nd Fighter Wing, as it takes off for a training mission from the runway of Homestead Air Reserve Base, April 28, 2016.



Col. James Dignan (center), 910th Airlift Wing commander, speaks with City of Youngstown, Ohio Finance Director David Bozanich and Ohio State District 64 Representative Michael O'Brien on the cargo deck of an Air Force Reserve C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft.



Civic leaders and their military escorts, all participants in the 910th Airlift Wing's 2016 Civic Leader Tour, stand in front of an F-16 assigned to the 482nd Fighter Wing and one of the 910th's C-130 Hercules at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida.



AFRC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF AIR RESERVE POWER WITH C-130 SPECIAL MISSION DEMO



Lt. Col. Karl Haagsma, 757th Airlift Squadron medical entomologist, discusses his unit's mission with congressional staff members on the Joint Base Andrews, Md., flight line.

A congressional staff member examines the spray nozzles on a 757th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules on the Joint Base Andrews, Md., flight line June 29, 2016.

Congressional staff members tour three AFRC C-130 Hercules special mission aircraft and speak with crew members on the Joint Base Andrew, Md., flight line June 29, 2016.



**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Kat Justen
459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs**

Joint Base Andrews, Md.—They’ve been among us for a century now. They look like any other American citizen, blending with the crowd, living normal lives and working normal jobs. These inconspicuous men and women are far from ordinary; inside each one of them beats the heart of a wingman, leader and warrior. They’re Citizen Airmen, and for ten decades they have volunteered time and again to protect and preserve their country in extraordinary ways. This week Air Force Reserve Command recognizes their efforts by highlighting some of their special missions.

To recognize and honor 100 years of Reserve Air Power, AFRC hosted a commemorative event at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, June 28 - 29, 2016, which showcased special missions conducted by C-130 Hercules units to include aerial spraying, weather surveillance and firefighting.

“We are currently celebrating 100 years of reserve air power. One hundred years ago our first reserve, at the time named the Army Air Corps, pilot flew,” said Brigadier Gen. Albert V. Lupenski, Headquarters U.S. Air Force Reserve Plans, Programs and Requirements director. “Today, we look at our special missions which we call earth, wind and fire: aerial spray, Hurricane Hunters and firefighting.”

Earth

During the special event, Citizen Airmen with the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, illustrated their mission of protecting the earth from disease carrying insects, pest insects, undesirable vegetation and oil spills in large bodies of water.

“We have several types of aerial spray missions we do,” said Captain Jonathan Blackann, 757th Airlift Wing pilot. “There’s the insecticide, larvicide and herbicide. We also spray oil dispersant like we did at Deep Water Horizon - the big BP oil spill in the Gulf [of Mexico] several years ago.”

They manage these nuisances by maintaining the only fixed-wing aerial spray capability, which

covers areas of 5,000 acres or more with six, low-flying C-130H aircraft fitted with 2,000 gallon spray tanks.

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, dangers such as disease spread by insects can further escalate problems for the people affected. The 910th AW utilizes their insecticide and larvicide aerial spray capabilities to reduce the spread of disease and alleviate further suffering.

“We are ready to deploy anywhere in the country should a natural disaster strike like Hurricane Katrina – any time there is any sort of natural disaster with lots of standing water afterwards,” said Blackann. “The nuisance bugs flourish and we help get those guys out of the way.”

Similarly, should the 910th be called upon to fight the growing threat of the Zika virus, they are prepared.

“Zika is a great example of just how dangerous small pests can be,” said Blackann. “If Zika and other diseases can spread, well, there needs to be somebody to combat that threat, and we are the ones to do it.”

Wind

“I spent my entire [flying] career avoiding thunderstorms, these guys spend their entire career looking to fly into them,” said Lupenski of the Hurricane Hunters with the 403rd Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi.

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, or Hurricane Hunters, is the only Department of Defense unit to conduct aerial weather reconnaissance in support of the National Hurricane Center and Department of Commerce. They utilize ten WC-130J Super Hercules to monitor tropical storms on a 24-hour basis.

“We take off, fly to the hurricane at about 5,000 feet, drop our weather instruments, and from a series of computers we send that data to the National Hurricane Center and they use it to narrow down their cone of probability,” said Staff Sgt. Jesse Jordan, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron loadmaster.

The Hurricane Hunters deploy a dropsonde into storm systems to collect temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction of weather

systems, which is critical in determining the likelihood of a hurricane developing.

“The reason this mission is important is the data that we provide to the National Hurricane Center helps narrow down the cone of probability by about 30 percent,” said Jordan. “That helps us determine how many people we need to evacuate and how soon we need to evacuate them. In some cases it will save lives, but in almost all cases it saves a lot of money.”

Fire

Last, but certainly not least among the Air Force Reserve C-130 special missions triad is fire.

The 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, is the only Air Force Reserve C-130 wing with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission. They maintain eight C-130H3 aircraft, which can be equipped with U.S. Forest Service-owned MAFFS to drop fire retardant to control wildland fires.

“Once we get a notification we have 72 hours to respond and be ready to go wherever needed,” said Master Sgt. Rocky Ramirez, 302nd Airlift Wing crew chief. “You have a 3,000 gallon tank with compressed air that will shoot a slurry fire retardant when they tell it to.”

With fire fighting missions all over country, the 302nd AW has a significant impact on the safety and livelihood of their fellow citizens.

“This mission is important because you’re saving lives, your own country’s homes, land and all the assets we have on the home front,” said Ramirez.

Whether by earth, wind or fire ringing in the 100th year of Reserve Air Power with C-130 special missions was an impressive way to pay homage to the Citizen Airmen of past and present. They may not be easily spotted in a crowd, but the impact of Citizen Airmen is ever-present.

“We in the Reserve are over 69,000 strong,” said Lupenski. “We like to say, ‘we live locally but serve globally.’ Any given day you have 5,000 or so Airmen on active duty serving in all of the areas of responsibility around the world side-by-side with active duty. We are interchangeable. We are integrated.”

AIRMEN AT WORK

1.) U.S. Vice President Joe Biden poses for a photo with 910th Airlift Wing firefighters here, Sept. 1, 2016. Biden landed here aboard Air Force Two before departing for business in the Valley. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric White).

2.) Members of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station Civil Air Patrol Squadron Honor Guard, based in nearby Vienna, Ohio, present the colors during the opening ceremony of the annual Summer Festival of the Arts held on the Youngstown State University Campus here, July 9, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt. Bob Barko Jr.)

3.) Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Garland and Senior Airman Andrew Albrecht, air transportation specialists assigned to the 76th Aerial Port Squadron, lift cargo onto a pallet during preparation for a Denton Mission here, Dec. 5 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/MSgt. Bob Barko Jr.)

4.) Master Sgt. Joseph Poltor, a Youngstown Air Reserve Station recruiter, guides Dan Madeline, Cross Scarpaci and Michael Amato through enlistment paperwork here, Aug. 19, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric White)

5.) Tech. Sgt. Michael Riggerbach, a safety technician with the 910th Airlift Wing safety office, performs a seatbelt check of incoming service members at the main gate here June 4, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Jim Brock).

6.) 910th Airlift Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Klavens Noel presents Fred Weitz, a former U.S. Air Force member who served from 1955–1959, with a Star of David necklace, July 28, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric White)

7.) Tech. Sgt. Charles Wood, 910th Maintenance Squadron aircraft maintenance craftsman, conducts a phase one inspection on a C-130H Hercules aircraft here, May 14, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt. Rachel Kocin)

8.) Staff Sgt. Gene Tucholski a C-130 crew chief with the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, operates the braking system of a C-130 Hercules aircraft during towing operations here, June 14, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt. Rachel Kocin)

9.) Col. Ken Herstine, 910th IG, and Master Sgt. Princeton Lowe, 910th IG superintendent, discuss the Air Force complaint resolution process with a member, here, April 3, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt. Rachel Kocin)

10.) Staff Sgt. Bryon Sinclair, an aerospace ground equipment journeyman with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, looks for an oil leak on a B809 generator, here May 15, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Rick Lisum)

11.) Senior Airman Rocco Cantanzarite, a communication and navigation systems journeyman with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, replaces an antenna on a C-130 Hercules here, Feb. 6, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. James Brock)

12.) Lt. Col. David Tancer, 757th Airlift Squadron Director of Operations, prepares to get his blood drawn by Staff Sgt. Cody Moore, Laboratory Technician, 910th Medical Squadron. Blood is drawn for various tests during an annual physical. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt. Rachel Kocin)

13.) Senior Airman Brandon Pendleton, supervisor of the 910th Development and Training Flight, instructs recruits on the M16A2 rifle here Feb. 7, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Jim Brock).

14.) 910th Communications Squadron Airmen Tech. Sgt. Andrew Senica, Master Sgt. Robert Beveridge and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Broman train on a Military Auxiliary Radio System with U.S. Army NETCOM Program Manager Paul English. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

15.) Master Sgt. Craig White, noncommissioned officer in charge of occupational safety, and Tech. Sgt. Mike Riggerbach, occupational ground safety technician, place warning cones on the fitness track where construction has made the track hazardous, March 6, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Jim Brock).

16.) Tech. Sgt. Frank Serrao and Tech. Sgt. Thomas Neiswanger, aerial spray maintenance craftsmen with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, remove nozzles from an aerial spray boom for inspection and cleaning here, March 24, 2016. Aerial spray maintainers come from traditional aircraft maintenance jobs, learning a unique skillset through on-job training to maintain the equipment for the Department of Defense's only aerial spray mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric White)

17.) Senior Airman Kyle Slaughter, a food services specialist with the 910th Force Support Squadron, prepares country fried steak for lunch here, Jan. 10, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/TSgt. Rick Lisum)

18.) Tech. Sgt. Wesley Whitaker, a 910th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, gives a form to Senior Airman Nicholas Bacisin, a customer support specialist with the Military Personnel Flight here, Jan. 10, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/SSgt. Rachel Kocin)

19.) The 910th Airlift Wing's mascot, Winger, stands with Base Community Council Charitable Fund Chairperson Lisa Dickson (left) and Honorary Event Chairman Youngstown State University President James Tressel (right) during opening festivities of the 3rd Annual Freedom Warrior Golf Outing and Gala at Squaw Creek Country Club, July 13, 2016. (Courtesy photo/Brenda Rider)







Need to Know

FY17 UTA Schedule

2016	October	1-2
2016	November	5-6
2016	December	3-4
2017	January	7-8
2017	February	4-5
2017	March	4-5
2017	April	1-2
2017	May	5-7
2017	June	3-4
2017	August	4-6
2017	September	9-10

*Three-day UTAs appear in red.

FY17 UTA Shuttle

The UTA shuttle is available on the following UTAs:

2016	December	3-4
2017	February	4-5
2017	May	5-7
2017	July/August	4-6

**For ALRS reservations:
Call 330-609-1923**

SAPR & Behavioral Health Resources

DoD
Safe Helpline
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community
safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247

About Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline

Department of Defense (DoD) Safe Helpline is a ground-breaking crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one support and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available worldwide, 24/7 by click, call or text — providing victims with the help they need anytime, anywhere.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station Behavioral Health office offers confidential counseling and referral services for the 910th Airlift Wing and their families. Working with depression, anxiety, stress, divorce, parenting issues, crisis situations, substance abuse, child/adolescent behavioral issues, couples counseling and more.

Contact Information:

Behavioral Health
Office: 330-609-1500
DSN: 346-1500
Mobile: 330-559-3512



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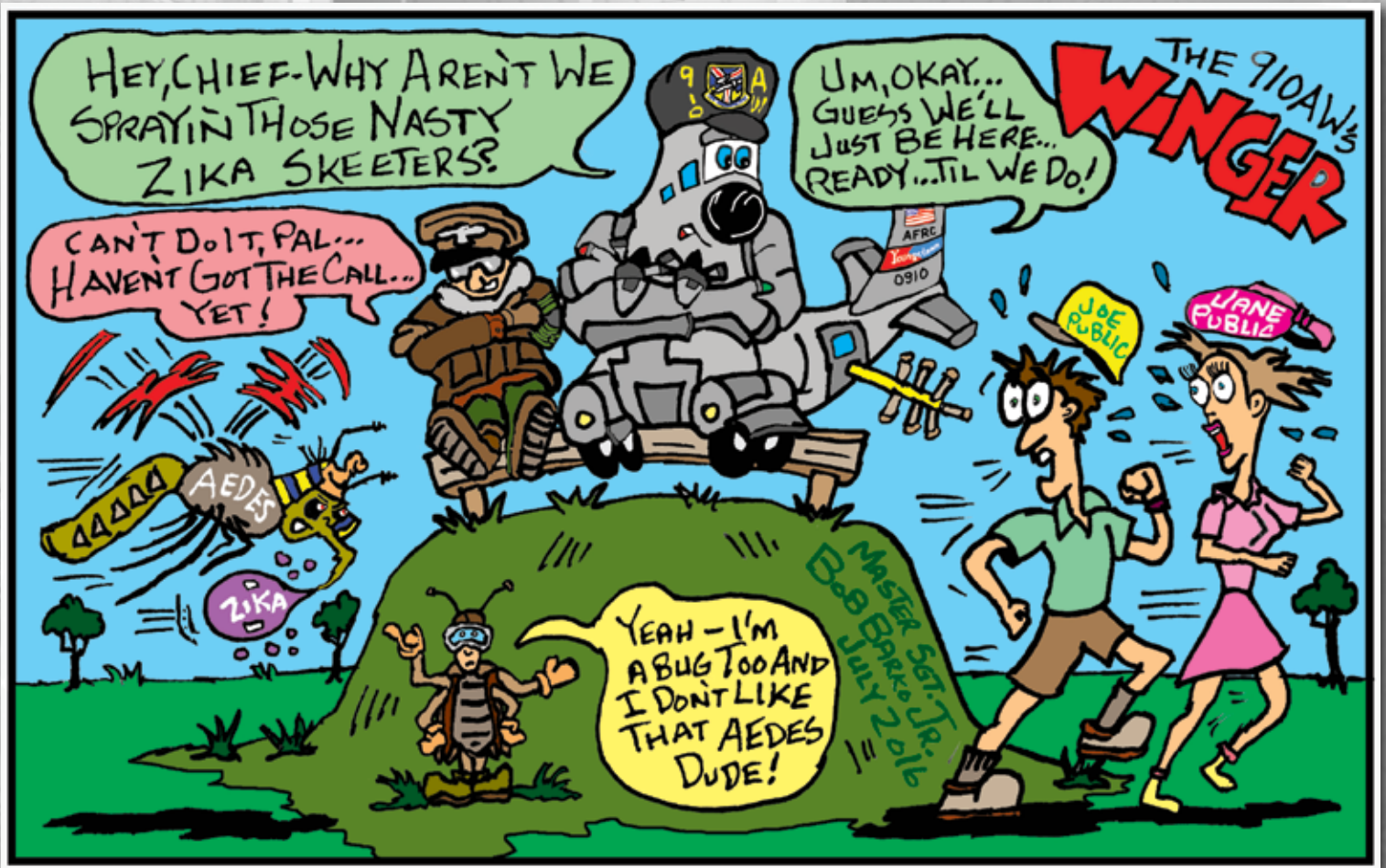
Submit leads by logging on to your account at Get1Now.us or via the new free mobile app for iOS and Android devices available on Apple's App Store and Google Play



AIR FORCE RESERVE

Go to Get1Now.us or call 877-786-2372

Rules: Awards for year are calculated from 1 October through 30 September. All AFRC Reservists are eligible to participate with the exception of AFRC Recruiters and their families and Reserve liaisons. There is no limit to the number of qualified referrals that can be submitted, but they must be submitted through Get1Now.us or the G1N app for iOS and Android devices to qualify for an award.



The 910 Airlift Wing's 'Winger' is a feature cartoon character from the 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office. 'Winger' is portrayed as a C-130 assigned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station and has been on many adventures involving the 910th's many missions including airlift, aerial spray, medical, security forces, maintenance, communications and many more. This Winger features the capabilities of the 910th Airlift Wing's Aerial Spray Flight to respond to national crises. U.S. Air Force artwork/Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.



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The work you do is part of the 910th Airlift Wing story. Stay connected with your unit by joining the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and our public website at youngstown.afrc.af.mil. We post fresh content including articles, photos, news video pieces and more, to help tell the world your story.

Deploy. Deliver. Defend.