

# THE *Airstream*

THE *Airstream*



## *World-Wide Readiness*

## Recognition does make a difference

**Chief Master Sgt. Robert V. Glus Sr.**  
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Recognition is defined as showing appreciation for a job well done. It is something everyone may not admit they want to receive, but it is something everyone enjoys receiving. Recognition is something that does make a difference. In terms of taking care of the most valuable resources the Air Force has – our people, recognition is something that is far too often put on the back burner. Recognizing our people makes a difference in personal attitudes, a difference in job performance, a difference in whether the mission gets accomplished safely and on time, and a difference in some cases of whether our people stay.

Per the recent Climate Survey, personal recognition was one of the lowest ranked areas. In talking to people around the base, I've heard numerous times this simple but most meaningful comment: "If someone would have just said "Thank You," I would have been happy. I would have known someone cared, and someone thought I was doing a good job." A simple "Thank You," is all they wanted. How simple a form of recognition can you get?

Recognition, is something we all as commanders, senior leaders, supervisors, and yes "yours truly" needs to improve upon. Improve to satisfy the next Climate Survey? No, improve because it is the right thing to do, to recognize our people for their accomplishments, contributions, devotion and sacrifices.

How can we improve? We can start by taking recognition off the back burner and putting it on the front burner, and then getting better at what we already have established such as having each and every squadron represented in all respective "Of the Quarter" categories, every time the boards meet. Improve by overwhelming the monthly Awards and Decorations board with packages. Improve by submitting your exceptional people for PEP. And most importantly, by simply displaying the common courtesy of saying "Thank You for a Job Well Done."

Recognition is not just about saluting our top performers; it is also about recognizing all our people who are contributing and improving their skills everyday. Provide them with those words of encouragement and how much you appreciate them. Also keep in mind recognition is not just from the top down. Who ever said it had to be like that. Take the time to thank your commander, senior leadership and supervisors.

Tell them when you think they are doing a good job and you appreciate their efforts. Like the saying goes, "Sometimes it is lonely at the Top." Do not let them tell you any different, they like to be recognized and appreciated just as much as everyone else. Remember, recognition can make a difference!

As another year has gone by here at the 910th, Let us all make a New Year's resolution (and keep it) to make a better effort in recognizing our people. I start by recognizing each of you for your outstanding service to our country as a member of the United States Air Force Reserve. Your dedication, devotion and numerous sacrifices play a key role in the 910th's success in mission accomplishment. With that being said, on behalf of a grateful nation, "Thank you for a job well done." You do make a difference.

From my wife Mary and our family to yours, "Have a Happy and prosperous New Year and may God bless."



Chief Master Sgt. Robert V. Glus Sr.

## Simplicity: A communication style worth expressing

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul R. Milliken**  
Wing Chaplain

The scene was thick. The clouds, heavy and dark gray. The mood, anxious. It wasn't the time for a stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue. Death's stench filled the air. A decision was crucial. With paper and pen in hand, a lonely man's long, lank frame sat quietly at his desk. His brief note, promptly dispatched, would shape the destiny of a nation at war with itself.

Its message was simple, a style altogether his. No rhetorical ribbons woven amidst its phrases. No satin frills, no enigmatic eloquence. It was rather plain, direct, to the point. A bearded Army officer later frowned as he read:

*April 7, 1865, 11 a.m.*

*Lt. Gen. Grant,*

*Gen Sheridan says, "If the thing is pressed, I believe Lee will surrender." Let the thing be pressed.*

Nodding in agreement, Grant did as ordered. Two days later at Appomattox Courthouse, Gen. Robert E. Lee offered his sword in surrender.

"The thing had been pressed," and the war ended. Simplicity. Profound, exacting. Lincoln had mastered it. That's precisely why his words live on.

Simplicity is the difference between something being just enough and too much – between concentrated and diluted – between communication and confusion. Between:

*"Hence from my sight – nor let me thus pollute mine eyes looking on a wretch like thee, thou cause of my ills; I sicken at thy vile presence . . ."*

and: "Scram!"

Simplicity. Economy of words mixed with high quality of thought held together by subtle expression. Practicing a hard-to-master restraint so some things remain for

the listener or reader to conclude on their own.

So . . . how well do you express yourself? Hmmm.



Chaplain Paul R. Milliken

### Monthly Chapel Service Hours

#### General Protestant Services:

2 p.m. on Saturdays of "A" UTAs

#### Orthodox Liturgy:

8:30 a.m. on Saturdays of "A" UTAs

Chapel open Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for reflection, silent prayer, quiet time.

## Employees look forward to life after careers

**MSgt. Bryan Ripple**  
NCOIC, Public Affairs

At a small base like Youngstown Air Reserve Station, a lot of the corporate knowledge the wing maintains over the years is provided from its full-time workforce. Some federal employees here have spent all or a good portion of their civil service careers with the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

On January 3 the 910<sup>th</sup> honorably bid farewell to a combined 83.3 years worth of this corporate knowledge and experience when three long-time employees retired. Now, each of them are looking forward to the next chapter of their lives in their own special ways. After speaking to each of them, one common feeling was shared by all. They are all proud of their service with the 910<sup>th</sup> and very happy to have met and worked with the people here.

Base Fire Chief Al Brown, a resident of Youngstown, started his job with the fire department here in March 1978 as a GS-04 firefighter. Prior to that, he had served on active duty with the Air Force for eight years.

In 1978 the department didn't have the facility and staffing it now enjoys.

"In those days, we were in the old Building 400," said Chief Brown. "The only air conditioning in the building was in the very small alarm room we had. Even that was only a small window unit. You should have seen us cramming in there to get cool," he said with a look of happy memories coming back to him. "One of the funniest things I remember is Vern Kunkle placing a fan by our refrigerator with the door open, trying to cool off."

After working for the government for more than 34-and-a-half years, Chief Brown and



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

**Al Brown, base fire chief, worked his way up from a GS-04 firefighter position to chief of the department. He always wanted his people to want to come to work each day.**

his wife Marilyn plan to take it easy for a while. Born and raised in Galax, Va., Chief Brown said retirement will give him more opportunity to go back there to visit his mom Eunice.

Looking back over his time with the fire department here, Chief Brown said one of the goals was always to highlight Youngstown's department throughout the command.

"We've really been able to do that with our training program becoming a benchmark for every AFRC department," he said. "Russ

Rowley has done an excellent job and he's now President of the AFRC Training Officers Committee."

Working up through the ranks from firefighter to chief of the department, Mr. Brown learned a lot about leadership over the years.

"I wanted our guys to want to come to work and enjoy a stress-free environment," he said. "We spend a lot of our lives here and that's extremely important when you're away from home like that."

**See LIFE, Page 5**

**The Airstream is published monthly by:**

910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office  
Youngstown Air Reserve Station  
3976 King Graves Rd., Unit 12  
Vienna, OH 44473-5912  
Voice (330) 609-1236  
Fax (330) 609-1022  
pa@youngstown.af.mil

**910th Airlift Wing Commander**

Col. Timothy J. Thomson

**Public Affairs Officer**

Capt. Brent J. Davis

**NCOIC**

Master Sgt. Bryan S. Ripple

**Public Affairs Staff**

Tech. Sgt. Shawn David McCowan, *Editor*  
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth E. Sloat

**PA Assistant**

Tia M. Symcheck

*This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Airstream are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 910th Airlift Wing. All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.*

**On the cover...**

2004 was a year of constant deployments in the midst of the ongoing base activation. 910th people were at all corners of the world, from Dover to Qatar. See stories on pages 6-7. Graphic Illustration by TSgt. Shawn David McCowan.

# Gang “green” goes blue at air station

**Capt. Brent J. Davis**  
Public Affairs Officer

For nearly two years, members of the 112<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers unit in Lorain, Ohio have made Youngstown Air Reserve Station a “purple” installation, but it’s now time for most of them to bid farewell to the 910<sup>th</sup> and return to their private lives.

A farewell luncheon was held here Nov. 30 at the Eagle’s Nest Club for a send off for 19 of the 31 soldiers who volunteered to extend their activation working along side members of the 910th Security Forces Squadron.

“We appreciate their sacrifice being away from their families and stepping up to provide additional security here at the 910th,” said Col. Rob Belknap, 910th Mission Support Group commander. “They did a fantastic job, never waivering a moment,” he added.

The soldiers largely agreed that their experience serving here was favorable.

“The base is very family oriented and everyone made us feel very comfortable, said Spc. Kyle M. Peters. “The 910th SFS is pretty squared away. They took good care of us,” he concluded.

Spc. Juan E. Maldonado agreed to the point of seeking an Air Force Reserve recruiter.

“The 910th Security Forces troops are a lot of great guys and gals to work with,” said Spec. Maldonado. “What drew me to wanting to cross over is the way the Air Force Reserve takes care of their people,” he concluded.

Spc. Maldonado added that the lodging facilities were very impressive. He hopes to join the Air Force Reserve as a loadmaster or fuels



Capt. Brent Davis

**Airman 1st Class Miguel Mercado shares one last laugh with his new Army guard buddies before they depart the air station.** specialist, with enlistment bonus opportunities being a factor.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joseph E. Fongheiser is another soldier ready to give up risking trench foot to join the Air Force Reserve.

“I’ve got over 22 years in already. Switching over to the Air Force Reserve will help one of my younger guys move up providing a little upward mobility,” said Sergeant Fongheiser. “Besides, I’m tired of being called up for nine months at a time to go serve out in the woods and serving in the mud at the Ravenna Arsenal,” he concluded.

For now, at least 3 of the 31 soldiers who have served honorably at the 910th Airlift Wing have a new favorite color—blue.

# Aerial porters return home after nearly one year

**Capt. Brent J. Davis**  
Public Affairs Officer

Several members of the 76<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron (APS) received a special Christmas present last month; a ticket home to be reunited with their families and loved ones.

After nearly a year of activation and deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, approximately 50 aerial porters returned to the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing December 7 and 17.

The reservists deployed to Dover AFB, Delaware, Ramstein Air base Germany and Kuwait International Airport to process cargo and passengers.

“From June through the end of August the APS personnel who were deployed to Kuwait handled in excess of 150,000 passengers and 75,000 tons of cargo,” said Chief Master Sgt. Ed Shelatz, Air Freight Superintendent for the 76<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron. “The workload was heavy but the troops’ experience and can-do attitude enabled them to not only meet mission requirements but also able to reduce the time required for airlift movement,” he added.

One of the more difficult duties for aerial porters was working mortuary processing at a forward operating location in Kuwait.

“One of the sad truths while we were there was that it seemed almost daily we were pulling caskets off the airplanes,” Tech. Sgt. Jim Evans, an air cargo processor with the 76<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron. “We’re thinking about these young marines and soldiers and their sacrifices and that they aren’t going to have the luxury of going home to their families,” he added.

Kim Evans has been married to Sgt. Evans for ten years and has learned to adjust to change.

“Jim was deployed during Desert Storm so I knew that he might be called away at any time,” said Mrs. Evans. “The base family support center contacted me while Jim was away and made several attempts to reach me over the past year,” she added.

The aerial porters are scheduled to deactivate this month.



**Teresa Reilly, wife of TSgt. Charles Reilly, an air cargo specialist with the 76th Aerial Port Squadron, shares with Col. Tim Thomson how she fared at home during the past year.**



**D. Todd Murdock with some of her more treasured pieces of needlework on display at the wing command section. Also shown is a meritorious civilian service medal she was presented from the Navy when she left her previous position.**

**LIFE, from Page 3**

After this many years of service Chief Brown said he was getting a little worn down, but he'd miss the job and all the people he's worked with. "I have to thank God things have worked out for me," he said.

"I want to thank everybody for putting up with me. I can't perform without having some fun. Anytime you can make Larry LeMar laugh, you've achieved something. I'm happy I was able to do that," he said with a grin.

Over at the wing command section, visitors have had the privilege of being greeted by Ms. D. Todd Murdock since September 1994 when she jumped ship from the Naval Reserve Readiness Command to become the wing commander's secretary.

Since then, she has now worked for four different wing commanders.

"I've found them all to be committed to this community and serving their country," she said. "Each commander has his own style, but they all wanted the base to be the best it could be."

Ms. Murdock, and her husband, retired Naval Reserve Captain Fred McCandless, are residents of Mineral Ridge, Ohio. She met Capt. McCandless while working with him for the Naval Reserve Readiness Command when it was at the Ravenna Arsenal.

When Ms. Murdock's son Douglas was around 12 years old, he kept her very busy

trying to keep up with him. She knew one day when he grew up and left home, she'd need something to keep her busy. She decided to take up needle work. Over the years Ms. Murdock got really interested in this hobby and could be seen crafting needlework pieces during her lunch time at work. She was recently installed as Chapter President of the Youngstown Area Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America.

After retirement, she plans on packing up her kitchen at home in preparation for a remodeling project she's been thinking about for a few years now.

"I finally have time to become reacquainted with my home now," she said.

When asked about her work philosophy, Ms. Murdock related that from the time she was a little girl, she always enjoyed organizing things, having things run smoothly, and helping people. "This job has been a wonderful opportunity to do these things," she said.

With 10 years of experience as the wing commander's secretary and a little more than 25 years of service overall, Ms. Murdock looked back at what she felt was the biggest change of her career field and offered some advice for whoever will replace her.

"The computerized automation of so many processes was the biggest change," she said. "I would tell my successor that there will be a lot of people visiting the office. Listen to them. Remember confidentiality is critical to the job. Be impartial. If there's a mistake, it's not necessary to find out who's responsible. It's more important to get it right," she said.

Management of the computerized movement at the base over the years has been no small task with just under 4,000 pieces of equipment on the base Automated Data Processing Equipment (ADPE) accounts.

That's where Ms. Carmen Caro, the base ADPE Equipment Manager, comes in. Since August 1981 when Ms. Caro began her first job here, she has worked with some type of automation at the base—even back when key punch cards and teletype machines were used to produce reports. She retires this month with 23-and-a-half years of service.

Raised in a family with strong ties to the Navy, Ms. Caro will also retire from the Naval Reserve unit here in March as a Petty Officer First Class after 20 years of military service.

Born in Manhattan, Ms. Caro moved to Ohio about 35 years ago. She plans to move to San Antonio, Texas soon where she has bought a new home near where her daughter Angela lives. She also has two sons, Daniel, who lives in Indianapolis, and Louis, who lives in Columbus. Her future plans include visiting some more of her family out west and picking up a part-time job if she gets bored.

"I've worked with a lot of people here over the years," she said. "I hope people remember me as being friendly and helpful. That's what I've wanted to be."



**After managing nearly 4,000 pieces of computer equipment for several years, Ms. Caro will be moving to San Antonio to be near her daughter Angela.**

# 910th Reservists face new challenge, new mission

**TSgt. Shawn David McCowan**  
Public Affairs Specialist

Nearly two dozen 910th Airlift Wing Reservists deployed to the country of Qatar Tuesday, December 7 on a 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing C-130.

The reservists will be assigned to the 379<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing at an air base in Qatar for varying lengths of time, but most will be deployed for 90 days.

The reservists are being deployed to support the ongoing War on Terrorism as part of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

**TSgt. Charles Swoope looks over a packing list and country info one last time with his wife, Donna, before the boarding announcement was made.**

The deployed reservists are aircrew members, aircraft maintenance personnel, and base operations personnel.

All three major television networks joined many family members in seeing the troops depart for their three-month assignment to Qatar.

Qatar is a peninsula-shaped country in the Middle East, located on the Persian Gulf and connected to Saudi Arabia. It is

roughly the size of Connecticut. Qatar's climate is fairly mild year-round, with 70-degree winters. The communities local to the base have been friendly and accommodating to U.S. military and American journalists.

As of Dec. 6, about 261 Air Force Reservists from the 910th remained on active duty with a little over 100 of them deployed overseas.

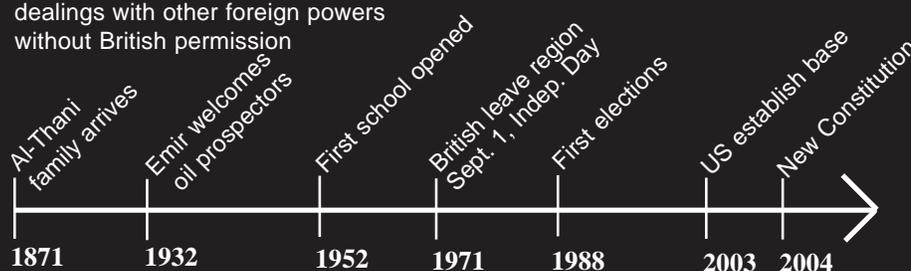
## Qatar: A Brief History

- Qatar dominated by Al-Thani family, who arrived in 18th century and became rulers about 100 years later
- Through 19th and early 20th centuries Qatar was shockingly poor, even by pre-oil Gulf standards
- Capital at Doha established in mid-19th century
- After expelling the Turks, Britain guaranteed Qatar's protection. In exchange the ruler would not have dealings with other foreign powers without British permission
- Poverty, hunger and disease all widespread in the 1930's
- 1950's; Qatar's oil reserves early revenue went to modernizing the country
- 1998 Chamber of Commerce and Industry elections marked first exercise in democracy. Not only did women vote, six of them stood for election
- April 2003; Qatar hosts US Central Command military base, Qataris approve a new constitution



- Archaeological digs have shown Qatar inhabited during the Stone Age  
- 16th century Qatar was either uninhabited or very nearly so.

Source: [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)



# Family Vigilance

The resolve of couples, parents and sons and daughters are again tested through another wave of deployments at a new location



Jacob, 7-year-old son of TSgt. Stephen Anthony, 910th Maintenance crew chief, hugged his daddy goodbye and promised to keep up their project of shoveling other people's driveways.



TSgt. Lloyd said he worried more about his wife, Annie, and family, because of the brotherly support he gets from his Air Force family.



SSgt. Boothe's girlfriend, Angila, says more deployments don't get easier.

**TSgt. Shawn David McCowan**  
Public Affairs Specialist

The global reach of the Air Force Reserve continues to expand and the 910th Airlift Wing's new deployment mission means the 910th continues to be a big part of the global war on terrorism.

Tuesday, Dec. 7, held new solemn military meaning this year. Normally Pearl Harbor Day is reserved to remember the events that pulled America into World War II. For area Reservists families it's also the first day of months without their loved one.

Through the holiday season and nearly into next spring over twenty 910th Reservists will be stationed in Qatar, a small peninsula in the Persian Gulf region of the Middle East.

This new deployment assigned to the 910th will be in Qatar

(locals pronounce the name *Cut-'Tahr*, not 'Cutter').

It will be the fourth non-home station assignment for 910th personnel activated in support of OIF, OEF and Operation Noble Eagle.

Although the activated troops are deployed frequently it's hard to find an Airman or an Airman's family who isn't keeping the mission in mind.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Swoope, from the 910th Maintenance Squadron, is a veteran from the Vietnam conflict and was part of the base's largest activation ever. But this was his first deployment as a member of the 910th.

His wife, Donna, and children, were sad he was leaving right before Christmas but were proud of him.

"Of course we're not happy that he's going to be gone for the holidays, but we know he's needed out there and we'll look forward to him coming home," said Donna.

Other deploying troops had just returned from other deployments not too

long ago and were already preparing to leave again.

Staff. Sgt. Paul Boothe was deployed with other members of the 773rd Airlift Squadron on two previous deployments during the past year.

Tech. Sgt. Doug Lloyd was in Kyrgyzstan during a summer deployment with several maintenance troops.

Sergeant Lloyd's wife, Annie, doesn't want to see him leave but understands the need for the deployments.

"Obviously this is the most emotional time of year for this to happen. But I'm very proud of Doug and I know that he feels a sense of duty to this country. I'll miss him but I know sometimes it has to be like this," said Annie.

As the war on terrorism rages on, members of the 910th Airlift Wing will continue to proudly step up; ready to serve the needs of America as they have all along.

# Pay, benefits increase for reservists in 2005

WASHINGTON – Military people will receive a pay hike. If they qualify, they'll get larger re-up bonuses.

Reservists activated for 90 days or more can apply for extra money for college and continuing family health care.

These and other benefits are in the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. The president signed the \$421 billion defense bill into law Oct. 28.

The bill OK'd \$2.24 billion for Air Force Reserve Command to train reservists and run the command.

A 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise starts Jan. 1.

Bonus authority goes up for people to enlist and reenlist in the Reserve. For example, people with no previous military service who qualify for a 6-year enlistment bonus may receive up to a maximum of \$10,000. The same bonus in 2004 was \$8,000. Other examples of the changes are available in the Selected Reserve 2005 Enlistment/Reenlistment Bonuses chart. Reservists can take a lump sum payment or installments.

People who go to college full time using the current Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill draw a max of \$288 a month. That's equal to 29 percent of the active-duty program's \$1,004 per month.

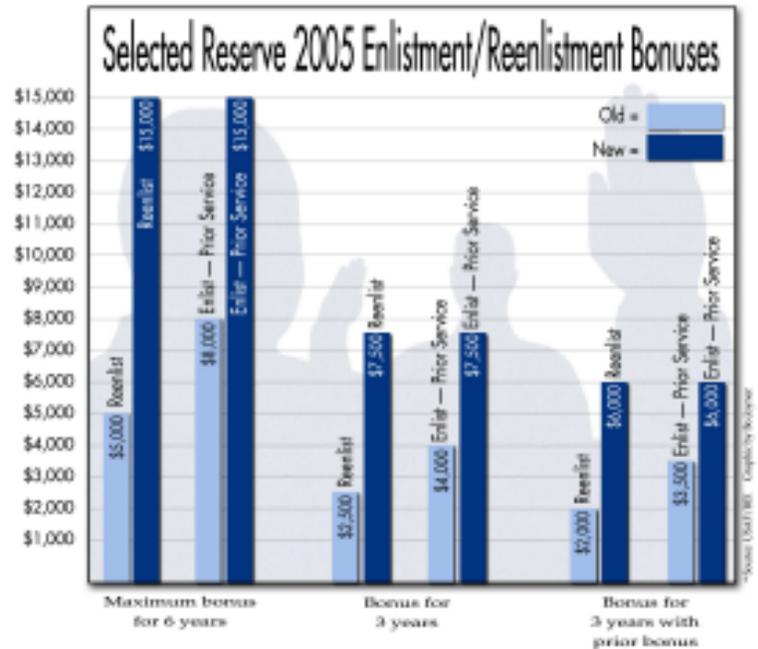
Reservists activated to fight the war on terror can get more. Full-time students draw \$402 a month for 90 days to a year of service, \$602 for 1-2 years and \$803 for more than 2 years.

The act makes early and transitional health care permanent for reservists activated for contingency support. People called up for more than 90 days can earn eligibility for Tricare standard family health care. For each 90 days of contingency support since Sept. 11, 2001, they are eligible for a full year of coverage if they stay in the Selected Reserve.

"We welcome these new Tricare provisions as a means to improve active and reserve component force readiness, and to enhance family member access to care," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Some programs won't begin immediately. For example, Congress wants the new Tricare standard enrollment program to start by April 25, 2005.

Dr. Winkenwerder said his people are working on these provisions to ensure they start on time.



Another change permanently sets family separation pay at \$250 per month. Also fixed is the increase in hostile fire and imminent danger pay to \$225 per month.

Air reserve technicians who perform the same job as civilians and reservists can take up to 44 days of military leave for overseas duty. The old law limited the leave to peacetime work. The new law permits the use of the leave to fight the war on terror.

Reservists no longer need to serve their last six years in the Air Force Reserve to qualify for a non-regular (reserve) retirement. Although reserve retirees can shop at the commissary and base exchange as soon as they retire, they don't start drawing retirement pay until age 60.

Also, the act speeds up concurrent-receipt payments for retirees rated 100 percent disabled. In the past, retirees had their pay docked dollar for dollar by the amount of disability payments the Department of Veterans Affairs paid them. Last year, Congress authorized a phase-in process that would eliminate the concurrent-receipt prohibition over a decade.

## Air Force honors spouses with pin

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials have expanded the pin program to recognize and thank those who support the efforts of Airmen around the world by introducing the Air Force spouse pin. This pin joins the Air Force employer pin and parent pin as one of the service's most visible public outreach programs.

Peter B. Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force, presided over a ceremony here Oct. 8, where the first three pins were presented to spouses of an active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airman.

"In an increasingly volatile world, the Air Force depends on families for their support as never before," said Col. Chris Geisel, assistant director of Air Force public affairs. "It's only appropriate that we reach out to the spouses who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us."

The spouse pin — a blue star cradled in the Air Force symbol — is a contemporary adaptation of a wartime tradition. Beginning with World War I, families hung service flags in their windows to display a blue star for each family member serving in the armed forces.

The new pin is given to spouses of American Airmen and civilians in recognition of the sacrifices they make for their spouse's service, Colonel Geisel said.

Besides the 1-inch silver lapel pin, the spouses will receive a personalized letter signed by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

Airmen and civilian employees can register for a spouse pin and letter through a Web-based program at [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com).

The Your Guardians of Freedom office, a division of the Air Force public affairs directorate, manages the recognition program. The office's mission is to help commanders and Airmen reach out to key audiences to tell the story of Airmen fighting the war on terrorism.

More than 222,000 Airmen have created profiles at the Web site, which has resulted in the presentation of more than 318,000 parent pins and more than 61,000 employer pins.

## Air base loses one of its founding fathers

**MSgt. Bryan Ripple**  
NCOIC, Public Affairs

Col. Chester A. Amedia, 82, (USAFR Ret.), passed away Nov. 18, 2004. Many reservists serving with the 910th today probably didn't know him personally, but he was one of the founding fathers of the 910th and Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

Following service in World War II, Col. Amedia remained active in the Air Force Reserve. He was one of a committee of three that worked to locate the Air Force Reserve Base here at the Youngstown Airport. While assigned here, he served in various capacities, including squadron commander of the 757th and deputy group commander of the 910th. He retired from the Air Force Reserve May 16, 1974 as a command pilot. Over the years, the colonel remained active in support of the 910th with membership on the Youngstown Air Reserve Station Base-Community Council and was President of the Mahoning County Chapter of the Reserve Officers' Association.

All together, Col. Amedia's military career spanned 39 years of active and reserve service. He volunteered and enlisted into the U.S. Army infantry during World War Sept. 29, 1942. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from Infantry School April 6, 1943, and was assigned to the 88th Infantry Division as a platoon leader. He then transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force in September 1943 and graduated as part of Class 44E, Gulf Coast Training Command, Ellington Field, receiving his pilot wings May 10, 1944. He was then selected for troop Carrier Training and assigned as a pilot with the First Air Commando Group. His crew arrived in India Dec. 28, 1944, and then deployed two days later to Northern Burma, joining the 319th, 1st Air Commando Group flying C-47s. He served in four battle campaigns in the China, Burma, India Theatre, flying the

famous "Hump." His service record credits him with 153 combat flying missions.

In July 1988, he was awarded flying wings from the Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Air Force, acknowledging his sacrifice as a member of the China-Burma-India Hump Pilots Association.

His military decorations included the the Purple Heart, a Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, four Battle Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation, and others.

Col. Amedia was also a graduate of Youngstown State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in education and business administration. With a strong calling to serve the community, Col. Amedia worked for the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority from 1950 to 1978. During his employment, he advanced the causes of safe and sanitary housing for the poor and elderly throughout the Mahoning Valley, the state of Ohio, and nationally. During his tenure, the Authority grew from 618 units to more than 2,200.

Col. Amedia leaves his wife of 62 years, the former Cecilia Costarella, and two sons, Dr. Chester Amedia Jr. of Boardman, and Frank J. Amedia of Miami, Fl.



Colonel Chester A. Amedia

### Quarterly Award winners announced

The following reservists were selected as winners of the 910th Airlift Wing "Of the Quarter" awards for the fourth quarter of 2004.

Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Lafayette Smith Jr., 910th Airlift Wing; NCO of the Quarter: TSgt. Jeffry A. Jorinscay, 910th Communications Flight; SNCO of the Quarter: Senior Master Sgt. Susan H. Kintz, 757th Airlift Squadron; and Junior Officer of the Quarter: 1Lt. Wendy M. Prokop, 910th Operations Support Squadron.

### AF IDEA program recognizes AF people

The AF IDEA Program (Innovative Development through Employee Awareness) is an incentive program that recognizes AF people for their approved ideas on how to save resources, increase efficiency or improve processes, products or equipment.

Anyone--individuals, teams or groups--may submit an idea for consideration. Awards may be monetary or nonmonetary. Cash awards range from \$200 to \$10,000, depending on the validated tangible savings and/or intangible benefits. Eligible criteria for ideas include:

- Must be the submitter's own thought or a new application of an old principle
- Must be submitted with the intent to benefit the U.S. government
- Must outline a specific area for improvement, state a workable solution and incorporate expected benefits

Submit ideas at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>.

January 2005

### Vet's Association awards scholarships

Continuing a program that was started in 1994, the 910th/757th Veteran's Association has announced the recipients of their "Chief Master Sergeant Edwin Rivera Memorial Scholarships" for 2004. The honorees are children and family members of current and retired 910th personnel.

Giavanna Russo is the daughter of MSgt. Anna Marie Russo of the 910th Airlift Wing. Giavanna is attending Gannon University and is studying in the pharmacy career field.

Lisa Canzonetta is the daughter of retired CMSgt. Eugene Albani and is attending college at Kent State Trumbull campus. She is pursuing a degree as an intervention specialist.

Chad Donley is the grandson of retired Col. Bill Donley and is a student at the University of Akron with a goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Stephanie Pompelia is the granddaughter of retired CMSgt. Donald Pompelia, and is going to school at Cornell University majoring in Industrial Relations.

Elizabeth Kindle is the granddaughter of retired SMSgt. William Dudas and is a student at Kent State University seeking a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

Carmen Russo III, is the son of MSgt. Anna Marie Russo and is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Thiel College.

Jeremy Albani is the grandson of retired CMSgt. Eugen Albani and is a student at Youngstown State University as an education major.

Applicants must have an identifiable goal, with education from a college or technical school.

# Golden Rule

TSgt. Ken Sloat  
Public Affairs Specialist

TSgt. Shawn David McCowan  
Public Affairs Specialist

**Philip Golden:  
Services Sq.  
#4**

Phil, who is a student at the University of Akron, joined the Air Force Reserve in 2001. This is his first season as a basketball player in the Esprit de Corps finals.



TSgt. Ken Sloat

**Mike Golden:  
"Macs"  
#23**

Mike says his team attitude is the same whether in the shop or on the court. "No one can do it all on their own. Without 'them' there's no 'me'."



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

From the cement floor of a basement in Akron to the polished basketball court of the 910th, the Golden's grew up playing basketball both together and against each other.

Their camaraderie becomes a rivalry when the "Macs" and services play for the basketball championship in January.

Phillip Golden, services specialist with the 910<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron and key player on the services team, said the cousins began playing basketball together as soon as they learned to run. Before long the "basement court" became schoolyard hoops.

"Mike got a head start and he's still faster, but I caught up," said Phil.

"But that won't help him. I could tell him what I'm going to do and he still won't be able to do anything about it."

Phil learned a lot about playing basketball from his older cousin. But not everything.

"He never taught me anything he didn't have to," said Phil.

But their competitive nature is a bond of respect and team work, said Phil.

"Even though we're cousins, we're more like brothers."

They first played on the same team when Phil was eight. They played on a youth league for about five years.

Phil joined the Air Force Reserve in 2001, a year ahead of his cousin.

The pair knew early on that they would cross each other's paths in the basketball finals.

"We both play for very good teams and when we saw the teams playing this year we knew we'd meet in the finals."

Philip is confident services will bring home the hardware.

"We'll definitely win. We have chemistry and we play better team ball."

Mike and Philip Golden grew up together, creating an inseparable bond through childhood, school and even into the Air Force Reserve. The 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing basketball title is at stake and Mike welcomes the challenge.

In the days of schoolyard pick-up games, Mike knew he'd get the best of the younger Phil, saying he practically taught him how to play. But 15 years and four-foot-three later he's not sure it'll be so easy.

"I knew he'd eventually catch up, but he suddenly had this growth spurt and has a fair chance to get the best of me," said Mike.

"Phil was a little shy. I had to drag him to the court for the Esprit de Corps tournament. Kind of like Phil dragging me to the Air Force."

Mike attended college in a few years ago but Phil knew he just wasn't into his college studies. Phil, already an Air Force Reservist, took Mike to the recruiters office. Before long they had matching outfits.

Mike says he enjoys his work much more than his college career.

The cousins' supportive personal relationship is a stark contrast to their fierce competition on the court. There the brotherly smiles turn to smirks and personal jabs.

"Phil is usually more laid-back than I am, but not when we play against each other."

Mike believes he has the edge and predicts a "Macs" victory in the January 2005 championship game.

"He might be better individually but I'm a better team player. Our team's full of stars, and one little flashlight just won't matter much."

Master Sgt. Robert Viers, Mike's supervisor in 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Maintenance, says his energy in basketball is reflected in his work while on duty.

The cousins are scheduled to move into an apartment together just before the championship. Maybe the title game is no added stress for them but the new living arrangements might be.

# NEWCOMERS

Master Sgt. Eric J. Jarrett, 910th Airlift Wing  
Tech. Sgt. Kevin L. Bowser, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Tech. Sgt. James G. Vinson Jr., 910th Medical Sq.  
Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Rogers, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Senior Airman Edward J. Carter, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Senior Airman Christopher M-J Crawford, 910th Security Forces Sq.  
Senior Airman Chad A. Devore, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Senior Airman James J. Lee, 910th Medical Sq.  
Airman 1st Class Marcos A. Alzati III, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Airman 1st Class Cody R. Bookner, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Airman 1st Class Jacob M. Phelps, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Airman 1st Class Rachelle M. Fidram, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Airman 1st Class Alex M. Ware, 910th Security Forces Sq.  
Airman Holly A. Bennett, 910th Medical Sq.  
Airman Shawn A. Campbell, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Airman Nicholas J. Hudak, 910th Maintenance Sq.  
Airman Asia C. Triplett, 910th Services Sq.  
Airman Eric R. Turner, 910th Civil Engineer Sq.



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

Another group of dedicated Citizen Airmen reenlisted during the wing commander's call in December.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

MSgt. Tim Henderson and TSgt. Jeffry Jorinscay did the best job they could to provide a functional sound system in Hangar 302 for the wing commander's call/holiday party during the December UTA.

January 2005

# PROMOTIONS

The following individual's name should have appeared in the December issue of The Airstream under the Promotions section. Notification of this promotion was not provided to The Airstream editorial staff in time for publication.



Charles J. Didion, 910th Maintenance Sq.



Courtesy photo

## Robin Williams visits deployed airmen

Actor/comedian Robin Williams visited with military personnel deployed to Kuwait in December. Here, he visits with Capt. Tova Shirah, Maj. Kendall Galloway, MSgt. Jim McNeilly, and Maj. Scott Croghan, all from the 773rd Airlift Squadron. Williams was in Kuwait on a tour sponsored by the USO.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

MSgt. Terry Jude and SrA. Thomas Kirst from the 76th APS "76ers" didn't want to let go of the 2003-2004 Services Esprit De Corps trophy when it was time to present it to the 910th Maintenance "Macs" at the commanders call in December.

# Two reservists presented Bronze Star medals

**MSgt. Bryan Ripple**

NCOIC, Public Affairs

Reservists from the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing are accustomed to witnessing the presentation of military awards and decorations at wing commander's calls. The December wing commander's call held special significance due to the fact that Col. Timothy Thomson, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, presented two members of the wing the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement while deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan in 2004. The awards were authorized by Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III, commander of USCENTAF.

Lt. Col. Edward L. Jennings, 757<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Director of Operations, was deployed to Manas Air Base from March 17 to June 15, 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the deputy commander, 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Wing.

According to the Bronze Star Medal award citation Lt. Col. Jennings received, he ensured the success of 13,000 coalition troops in support of Operation Mountain Storm in Afghanistan. As second in command of a multi-aircraft organization that spanned four separate locations, his superior leadership guided around the clock air refueling, airlift, and aero medical evacuation operations. While working under terrorist threat, Colonel Jennings' direction was paramount to the wing achieving a 95 percent mission effectiveness rate and establishing a new wing benchmark by completing over 560 air-refueling sorties in support of coalition strike aircraft, while delivering in excess of 22,000 troops and over 2,500 airlift sorties. Additionally, his negotiations with the host nation fostered increased cooperation that greatly enhanced mission execution.

Maj. Jay M. Smeltzer, commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, was also deployed to Manas Air Base from Feb. 25 to June 2, 2004 as flight commander, C-130 Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Maintenance Group, 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Wing. According to his award citation, while engaged in ground operations against an opposing armed force, he led 90 maintenance personnel from 14 separate career fields to enable the generation of 1,100 combat sorties, delivering more than 16,000 war fighting personnel, and 4,000 tons of cargo to the front lines in Afghanistan. His outstanding leadership in forging a highly effective team with members originating from four separate bases was the prime factor in attaining an impressive 95 percent mission effectiveness rating during key phases of Operations Mountain Blizzard and Mountain Storm. He also expertly coordinated all logistical requirements for the recovery of seven separate disabled C-130 aircraft from hostile locations throughout the Afghanistan theatre of operations, and expedited their immediate repair.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

**Col. Thomson said the Bronze Star medals he presented to Lt. Col. Jennings and Maj. Smeltzer were the first ones he had presented.**

His unmatched ability to provide coalition combat ground forces with maximum airlift capability drove the successful capture of hundreds of Taliban and Al Qaeda militants, demobilization of 7,000 fighters, recover of over 5,000 weapons, thousands of rockets and mortar rounds, and millions of rounds of small arms ammunition.

## The Bronze Star Medal

- Established by Executive Order No. 0410 on February 4, 1944
- Awarded to personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces, who on or after Dec. 7, 1941, distinguished themselves for heroic or meritorious achievement of service, not involving aerial flight, in connection with operations against and opposing armed force
- The award can be presented to recognize single acts of merit and meritorious service if the achievement or service is of a lesser degree than deemed worthy of the Legion of Merit; but such service must have been accomplished with distinction



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

**910 AW/PA  
YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STA  
3976 KING GRAVES RD UNIT 12  
VIENNA OH 44473-5912  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID**