

THE Airstream

THE Airstream



**910th fired up for Employer
Awareness Day**

FROM THE TOP

As we head down the road of success

Col. Karl McGregor

910th Airlift Wing Commander

We are fast approaching our next milestone (the ORE) on the road to a successful ORI. In November we will have an opportunity for our last full scale practice session. I ask all the participants to give all three phases of the ORE, (initial response, employment and redeployment) their best effort so that the evaluation team can get a clear look at our readiness and so they in turn can identify areas where we need to concentrate resources in order to improve our performance. My expectations are that the squadron commanders through their unit deployment monitor's will have completely reviewed records and equipment for all the deploying members and their alternates. This will ensure that the initial response sets the tone for the employment phase.

During employment I expect every member to stay safety focused. That means the wearing of seat belts even when you're dressed out in your chemical warfare gear, making sure that you and your co-workers stay hydrated, and staying focused so that nothing bites you when you least expect it (pintle hooks, tiedown chains, car doors). Once employed, concentrate on operating in the hostile environment. In order to succeed in that hostile environment, we'll need to do our jobs under less than favorable conditions and that means teamwork. Make sure that every single time your mask goes on, you get buddy checked and that you're buddy checking someone else. It's hard to fail when we use team knowledge and team dynamics as a check and balance for the chaos inherent in the scenario.

Please remember that we will be graded door to door. Don't relax and let your guard down during the redeployment. A number of units have nearly failed their ORI due to poor redeployment planning and execution. We will need the equipment, passengers and especially aircraft to follow the redeployment schedule.

Stick to the plan unless the command system directs a change. There will be deployed senior leadership connected to the redeployment decision process until we get everyone back to home station.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that my recent experience with the IG taught me that the most successful teams brought a positive attitude to the inspection and maintained that attitude throughout the inspection. Remember that you never need to do battle with the inspection team. I will have direct contact with the IG team chief during the ORI in the event that there are disagreements. The IG is not infallible and it is very possible for units to understand the IG rules or AFI's better than their inspector, but remember to handle these issues with tact and diplomacy.

Wing Review

Over the last several months I've been able to spend time reviewing the health of the wing. I really like what I see in a majority of areas. Youngstown has some of the best facilities of any reserve base I've seen (kudos to the BCE) and the overall attitude of the work force is very positive. A strong work ethic persists throughout the base, from civil servants to contractors to reservists. Overall processes seem well developed and most senior/middle management appears very strong as well.

There are of course some areas open for improvement. The last unit climate assessment indicates that supervision needs to take a stronger role in providing feedback and career mentoring to employees. The solution is to re-energize our supervisors and help them work through the program requirements. We'll start from the Wing Commander down, by communicating our expectations and then reviewing performance through honest dialog. In other words, mentor as a continuous and purpose-

ful process with truth built into the feedback session.

In addition to stressing mentoring, the selection process for senior positions will become less opaque. The processes of selecting individuals for most leadership positions will become a boarded event. If you qualify and submit a package, you will be allowed to interview and you will be debriefed if not selected.

Finally, it appears that in some corners of the wing we have lost traction for accountability relevant to poor decisions or inappropriate behavior. Accountability is one of the cornerstones of good leadership. I will hold commanders accountable for their actions and those of their units, commanders will hold supervisors accountable and supervisors will hold their subordinates accountable, period. There are two types of errors; the first is where the individual takes a wrong action for all the right reasons. These errors are usually mitigated to the least amount of adverse action possible, because the decision was based on good intent. The second error stems from a wrong action for the wrong reasons, usually personal gain to the detriment of other members, and these types of decisions will not be tolerated. Morale and the health of each unit depend on our ability to trust our coworkers and it requires supervision to always do the right thing. Members are entitled to a structure that is above any perception of action that is not clearly for the good of the wing and, conversely, members are responsible for ensuring their behavior supports the organization.

Youngstown ARS has a great tradition and an excellent reputation for mission accomplishment. I will be looking for input and energy from across the wing to help me strengthen the mentoring, feedback, and selection processes. I am engaged with the commanders to push a course correction for how we address accountability issues. My hope is that we set a clear path for all. Have a great UTA, ORE and ORI.



THE WING COMMANDER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU



As a service for Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airmen, the 910th Airlift Wing is introducing the **Commander's Action Line**.

The line is a way for 910th members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Col. Karl McGregor, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, gives action line queries his personal attention. The Airstream will publish those items that are of general interest to the Youngstown Air Reserve Station populace.

In addition to using the **Commander's Action Line**, reservists are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The action line can be reached via e-mail at pa@youngstown.af.mil. People using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed for a timely response.



Capt. Brent J. Davis

Col. Karl McGregor, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, prepares to take his inaugural C-130 flight after going through training at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Prior to his training and this flight, Col. McGregor hadn't flown in a C-130 as part of an aircrew in more than 22 years. At that time he was an

enlisted flight engineer based out of Kelly AFB, Texas. He has logged more than 11,000 flying hours in a variety of aircraft. Col. McGregor completed his two-hour inaugural flight on August 29 with "a group of professionals that have been flying the C-130 for a long, long time."

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On the cover...

Firefighters from the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron hose down a fire in the aircraft mockup at the "burn pit," an on-base area used for fire response training, during a demonstration for the Annual Employer Day. The 910th Airlift Wing hosted nearly 40 bosses of reservists assigned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station. U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Employer Awareness Day full of sights, sounds

Senior Airman Ann Wilkins Jefferson
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 910th Airlift Wing celebrated those civilian employers who aid the Air Force mission through their support of employees who are also Air Force Reservists at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

Airmen nominated their civilian bosses to attend the annual Employer Awareness Day here on Sept. 15, 2007. After arriving at YARS, signing in and enjoying a continental breakfast at the Eagle's Nest Club, the day's events kicked off with an aerial spray mission video and a briefing from base operations, followed by a group photo on the flightline and a flight on one of two C-130s. The scenic trip included a pass over Niagara Falls although the cloudy weather hindered a great view of them. But the sights enroute and back of Lake Erie and its coastlines, ending with a better-than-bird's eye view of downtown Cleveland gave the 910th's guests picture-perfect camera opportunities.

Greg Gordon of Gordon Brothers Stables, nominated by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Bryant of the 910th Maintenance Squadron, won a raffle for a primo seat on the aircraft's flight deck during takeoff. "It was unbelievable!" Gordon said afterward and added that the opportunity to witness a takeoff from the cockpit was a dream come true.

Once back on the ground, the employers returned to the base club for lunch and a presentation from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Each employer received certificates of appreciation and some information on ESGR.

Soon after, the 910th's Public Affairs and transportation staffs treated their guests to a bus ride tour of the base. The tour ended at the base's "burn pit," an area used for fire response training. The employers were treated to a demonstration by firefighters from the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron followed by a Security Forces Squadron quick crisis response team exercise, complete with "bad guys outside the wire." The training demonstrations really woke up the senses with use of fire, water, sirens, smoke bombs and gunfire (with blanks, of course). The employers then had an opportunity to get up close and personal with some military equipment displays and were even able to squeeze off some blank rounds under the close supervision of the SF officers.

Finally, the employers took the bus back to the club where they met their employees for an opportunity to go see where they worked.



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Senior Master Sgt. Don Cutrer, a loadmaster assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, talks with his employer, Joe Koch of Koch Construction during a C-130 flight to the Niagara Falls area as part of Employer Awareness Day activities.



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Master Sgt. Elliot Rodriguez, a firefighter assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron addresses a group of employers while wearing his crash response gear at YARS.



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Employer Virgil Linger of the Akron Fire Department does his best "Rambo" impersonation (with blanks, of course) under the watchful eyes of 910th Security Forces Squadron personnel during Employer Day 2007 at YARS.



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Employers were treated to a spectacular view from the flight deck of a C-130 during Employer Awareness Day 2007.

YARS Eagle's Nest Club shows off new look



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Col. Bill Stephens, 910th Mission Support Group commander; Mr. Jerry Cardinal, Director of Services for AFRC HQ and Col. Karl McGregor, 910th Airlift Wing commander, prepare to cut the ribbon at the Eagle's Nest Club's Grand Re-Opening celebration, with Jason Cohol, club manager looking on.



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing participate in a sand volleyball game outside of the Eagle's Nest Club during the Grand Re-Opening celebration .



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Senior Airman Jason Kirk belts out a Karaoke tune at the Eagle's Nest Club during the Grand Re-Opening celebration .

October 2007

Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr. **910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs**

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station Eagle's Nest Club celebrated the completion of a \$300,000 plus renovation with a Grand Re-Opening celebration held here Saturday of the September UTA.

The party kicked off with a ceremonial ribbon cutting by Col. Bill Stephens, 910th Mission Support Group commander; Mr. Jerry Cardinal, Director of Services for AFRC HQ; Col. Karl McGregor, 910th Airlift Wing commander and Jason Cohol, the club manager. After the ribbon was cut, the crowd gathered to view the ceremony flowed into the building to get a look at the refurbished club and get in on the evening's events.

Before long, those attending the ribbon cutting were joined by many others wanting to partake of the fun in store for the club's guests. The club staff offered up a complimentary buffet of appetizers, burgers, hot dogs, side dishes and deserts. A cake was also served to mark the occasion. Those attending the festivities were not lacking on choices of entertainment spread throughout the club.

The club's guests had the opportunity to take in the Ohio State Buckeyes football game on several TV's located around the building. A pool tournament was held and disc jockeys were spinning tunes and turning some of those on hand into would be "American Idol" contestants by letting them pick up a microphone and sing some Karaoke tunes.

The fun spread outside the club as well under cool, clear fall skies. Base reservists and civilians were invited to participate in a classic car and motorcycle show. The show entries were shown in the club parking lot and trophies were given out for first, second, third place and an overall "People's Choice" Award for both cars and motorcycles. Even though it was an autumn evening, a hint of summer was in the air as a sand volleyball game was in full swing. Underneath the club's new canopy, Airmen donned oversized Sumo Suits and participated in some good natured wrestling. The gear used for the activities held outside the club was provided by Outdoor Recreation Equipment Rental at the base Fitness Center.

All night long, those attending the club's grand Re-Opening were gathered around the newly refurbished bar and tables in large groups. They not only gathered to celebrate the completion of the long planned renovations to the base club, but also to share in the camaraderie that comes from being a Servicemember in the United States military.

For more photos to accompany the stories on Pages 4 and 5, please visit the 910th Airlift Wing public Web site at www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil



Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

A group of Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing participate in some Sumo-style fun under the canopy just outside the Eagle's Nest Club during the Grand Re-Opening celebration .

Simplified Tricare Reserve Select opens Oct. 1 for Reservists, Guardsmen

ARPC NEWS—A simplified Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) program open to all Guardsmen and Reservists debuted Oct. 1, 2007.

New TRS provides an across-the-board health care plan similar to the active-duty coverage but open to all Guardsmen and Reservists. The only group excluded is Guardsmen and Reservists eligible/enrolled for Federal Employee Health Benefits.

The new TRS is a premium-based health plan available to Selected Reserve members (unit assigned and IMA members) at 28 percent of the

premium cost. Now, all enrollees pay \$81 a month for personal coverage or \$253 a month for family, TRS offers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard (and TRICARE Extra) with the active duty family member deductibles and cost shares applied to both the Selected Reserve member and family members under the TRS plan.

Members who are currently enrolled in TRS under the 3 Tier program, needed to re-enroll into the new program prior to Sept. 30, 2007 in order to continue coverage.

For questions regarding TRS contact HQ

ARPC/DPS (HQ ARPC Contact Center) at 1-800-525-0102. More details on this benefit can be found at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=8316>.

To participate in TRS, Airmen must be registered in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). If not already registered, go to the nearest MPF – DEERS/RAPIDS location or call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 1-800-538-9552 or visit <http://www.tricare.mil/> to update your information or register.

Air Force fitness test now pass, fail

WASHINGTON (AFP)— Air Force officials here recently announced a change to physical fitness test standards for all Airmen.

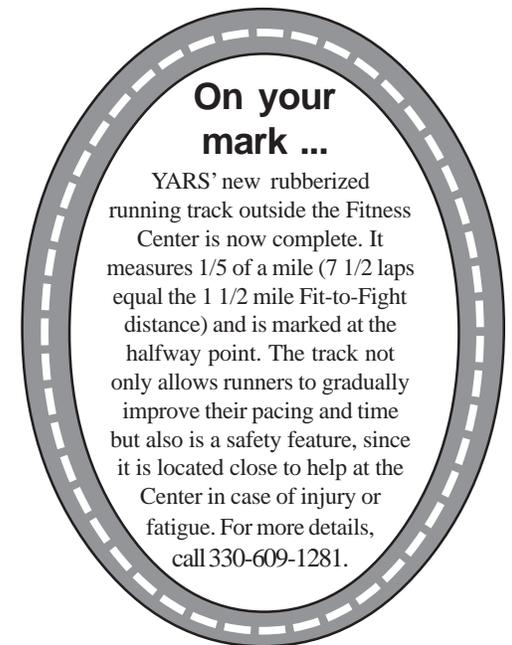
The “marginal” category has been eliminated, and the test will now be either pass or fail.

Previously, Airmen who scored below 70 on the fitness test failed, and those who scored between 70 and 74.9 received a marginal rating, while Airmen who scored 75 or above passed. With the change, a score below 75 is considered failing, and Airmen will have to retest within 90 days.

“The change was made to support a defined standard for fitness testing,” said Maj. Dana Whelan, the chief of health promotion operations at Bolling Air Force Base in the District of Columbia. “With the implementation of the new officer and enlisted performance reports, we needed to define a score that qualifies as meeting standards. Furthermore, Airmen who scored in the (marginal) range were not where the Air Force needed them to be (physically), and were still required to attend a healthy living workshop and retake the test to score 75 or above.”

The fitness test change comes just weeks after the implementation of the new performance reports.

“I applaud our Airmen who realize the importance of peak physical fitness,” Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley wrote in an Enlisted Perspective. “However, I realize there are also Airmen who are not living up to their health and fitness potential. With every Airman critical to completion of Air Force air, space and cyberspace missions, we need all Airmen physically capable of performing at the highest level.”



New Air Force policy for LASIK, PRK refractive surgery

Lt. Col. Christopher R. Rugaber
910th Medical Squadron, Chief of Optometry

The Air Force Surgeon General recently released official guidance concerning corneal refractive surgery for all Air Force members. Reservists (both aviator and non-aviator) who want refractive surgery, either via LASIK (laser) or PRK (photorefractive keratectomy), must now meet the same documentation, approval, and tracking requirements as active duty members.

Airmen wanting refractive surgery must have prior written approval from both their commander and the Air Force Refractive Surgery Registry. Members will be coded “Do not fly” (DNF'd) and profiled for a period of months after surgery, and may be disqualified from continued military service if they ultimately don't meet Air Force ocular standards.

You may have surgery and receive post-operative care at a Department of Defense Refractive Surgery Center if you are

eligible for active duty elective surgery benefits. In reality, as reservists the chance of getting surgery through the Air Force is low. We are activated to perform our duties, not to take time off for surgery and then be DNIF'd or profiled.

With approval from your commander and the Refractive Surgery Registry, you may have a civilian doctor, who agrees in writing to comply with Air Force policies, perform your surgery.

I believe that although these policy changes may be somewhat inconvenient, they are prudent and reasonable. To reduce delays, I will manage this program throughout the month.

Contact Lt. Col. Rugaber via e-mail at:
chicoraeyecare@zoominternet.net

with questions regarding this policy change (Be sure to put AIR FORCE REFRACTIVE SURGERY as the subject) or visit him at the Mdeical Squadron during “A” UTAs.



NEWCOMERS

Please welcome the following new members of the 910th Airlift Wing:

Col. Akram Sadaka, 910th Medical Squadron
 Senior Master Sgt. Mary E. Busch, 910th Operation Support Squadron
 Tech. Sgt. Thomas E. Neiswanger, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Shane C. Anderson, 910th Medical Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Kevin M. Krohn, 910th Mission Support Flight
 Staff Sgt. Todd D. Meagher, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Jackie M. Nichols, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Timothy A. Richardson, 76th Aerial Port Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Robert J. Toothman, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Senior Airman Stephanie S. Barnes, 910th Medical Squadron
 Senior Airman Scott A. Cartwright, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Senior Airman Andrew B. Field, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Senior Airman Ronald L. Graham, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Airman 1st Class Jamie A. Bevans-Pope, 910th Mission Support Flight
 Airman 1st Class Sherae L. Blair, 910th Medical Squadron
 Airman 1st Class Anthony M. Chavez, 910th Mission Support Flight
 Airman 1st Class Omeka A. Scott, 910th Operations Group
 Airman 1st Class Justin P. Thunstrom, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Airman Sean A. Cesareo, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Airman Daniel C. Kudela II, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Airman Sheryl R. Jones-Dixon, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Airman Contessa MA Michaels, 910th Airlift Wing
 Airman Saul N. Payne, 910th Security Forces Squadron

PROMOTIONS



Venitta L. Tidmore-Brown, 773rd Airlift Squadron



Monica L. Carter, 910th Services Squadron
 Gregory P. Crissman, 910th Medical Squadron
 Michelle A. Mariacher, 910th Mission Support Group
 Kevin K. McGovern, 910th Services Squadron
 Kimberly Richardson, 910th Services Squadron
 Walter P. Tringhese, 910th Maintenance Squadron



John P. Allison, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Brian E. Cales, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Milton M. Campbell, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Ryan V. Johnson, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
 Hector M. Mendez, 910th Medical Squadron
 Christopher A. Schroeder, 910th Logistics Readiness Sq.
 Eric P. Wrenn, 76th Aerial Port Squadron



William D. Chappell, 910th Security Forces Squadron
 Nadia D. Costick, 76th Aerial Port Squadron
 James R. Johnson, 910th Maintenance Squadron
 Steven M. Kane, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Raymond A. Semproch, 910th Medical Squadron
 Eunice A. Walters, 76th Aerial Port Squadron



Sean A. Cesareo, 910th Security Forces Squadron

Meet "Winger!"

THE 910 AW'S WINGER



U.S. Air Force illustration/Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

The 910 Airlift Wing's "Winger" is a new feature cartoon character from the 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office. He will appear in "The Airstream" and could be used on the public Web site, on posters, in power point presentations and potentially a variety of different uses.

"Winger" is portrayed as a C-130 assigned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station and will be featured in adventures involving the 910th's missions including Airlift, Aerial Spray, Medical, Security Forces, Maintenance, Communications, the upcoming Gulfport ORE/ORI and more.

"Winger" was created by Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr. Sergeant Barko, a life long Mahoning Valley resident,

is a Public Affairs Specialist assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing. He joined the Air Force Reserve in October 2006 after 12 years with the Ohio Army National Guard. Before crossing into the blue, his last Guard assignment was with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Columbus, Ohio. During his tenure with the OHARNG, he was deployed in 1990 to Sendai, Japan to provide physical security for Operation Yama Sakura and for disaster relief during the Shadyside flood along the Ohio River. In 2005, he deployed to Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Sergeant Barko graduated from Youngstown State University in 1993 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in Graphic Design. In addition to his duties at YARS, he owns and operates Steel Town Studios in downtown Youngstown. Since October 2000, the studio has

featured prints and collectables with his artwork highlighting 20th century Youngstown pop culture including the historic downtown, Idora Park, Isaly's, Mill Creek Park, the steel mills, theaters and more.

Since 1997, pieces of his artwork have been sent across the country and around the globe. He also has been involved in several community art projects including Youngstown's Penguin Parade, Warren's Spectacle of Speed and most recently a 24-foot long, 6-foot high full-color traveling mural entitled "Here in Youngstown," depicting the history of the city from 1796 to present day.

Sergeant Barko looks forward to contributing toward completing the missions of the Public Affairs office and being a part of the 910th family at YARS.

910 Airmen celebrate AF 60th b-day at YSU home opener



Tech Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Youngstown State University mascots Pete and Penny Penguin, YSU President Dr. David Sweet, 910th Airlift Wing commander Col. Karl McGregor and Air Force Reserve mascot Airman Andy stand on Beede Field at YSU's Stambaugh Stadium just prior to Col. McGregor presenting his wing commander's coin to Dr. Sweet as part of the celebration of the U.S. Air Force's 60th birthday during the YSU football team's home opener.

Tech. Sgt. Bob Barko Jr. 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

370 Airmen, family members and friends from the 910th Airlift Wing attended the home opener of the Youngstown State University's 2007 football season. The YSU Penguins were pitted against the South Dakota State University Jack Rabbits at Stambaugh Stadium, also known as the "ice castle" in downtown Youngstown. The YSU Athletic Department treated the group from the 910th to one dollar reserved seat tickets, valued at \$14 a piece. The Athletic Department also provided a hospital-tent to the group for pre-game festivities as a recognition of the U.S. Air Force's 60th Birthday, which is on September 18, 2007.

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station Base-Community Council, the YARS Eagle's Nest Club, the 910th AW Public Affairs staff, the 910th AW Recruiting staff, the 910th AW Chiefs Group, Chapter 41 of the Reserve Officers Association, the 910th AW Services Squadron and the 910th AW Relay for Life Team participated in preparing for the celebra-

tion either by sponsoring, organizing or cooking and serving at the event. The 910th Honor Guard presented the colors along with YSU's Army ROTC and a crew assigned to Youngstown Air Reserve Station performed a flawless C-130 flyover during the pregame festivities. The 910th as well as the USAF's 60th birthday were recognized during an on-field and scoreboard event as 910th AW commander Col. Karl McGregor presented his commander's coin to YSU president Dr. David Sweet as a sign of appreciation for the university's hosting of the USAF birthday bash. The perfect fall night was capped off by a spectacular fireworks display.

While the 910th enjoyed YSU's hospitality off the field, the SDSU Jack Rabbits received a frigid reception at the "ice castle" as they were defeated by the Penguins with a final score of 23-17.

For more photos to accompany this story, please visit the 910th Airlift Wing public Web site at www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil

CAP, Air Force JROTC accepts donated uniform items from reservists

If you're wondering what to do with uniform items that you don't wear anymore, consider donating them to the base Civic Air Patrol Squadron or the local Air Force JROTC units.

To donate uniform items to the Civil Air Patrol unit on base, contact Ted Pifer at 330-609-1096; to donate to the AFJROTC, contact Maj. Stephanie Welhouse at 330-609-1130.

The uniform items are greatly appreciated and will benefit training and mentorship of youth in the local area, many of whom will go on to join the military when they're old enough.

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