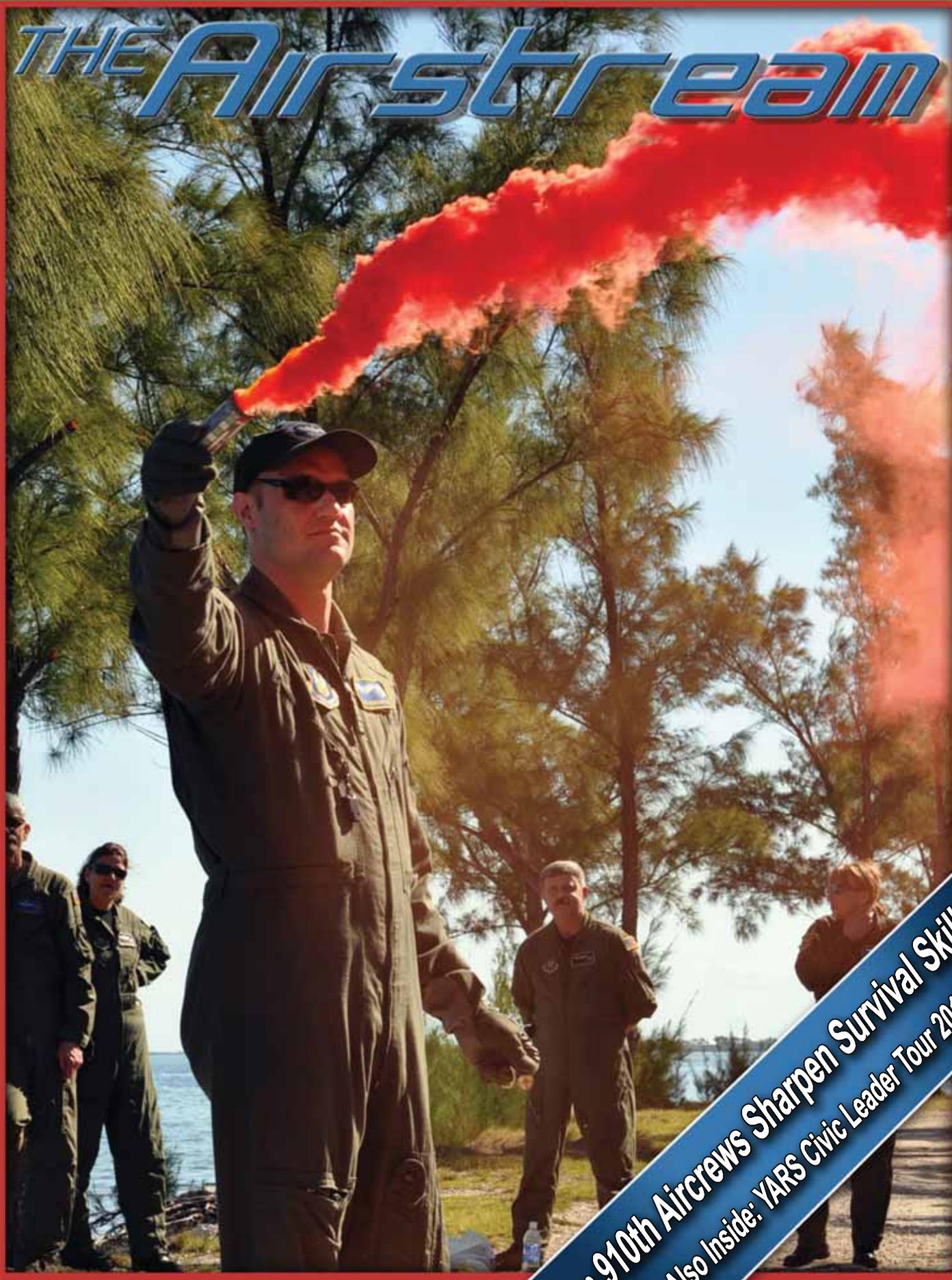


# THE Airstream



• 910th Aircrews Sharpen Survival Skills  
Also Inside: YARS Civic Leader Tour 2010

# FROM THE TOP



**Col. Karl McGregor**  
910th Airlift Wing Commander



## Farewell message: continue to fly, fight, win

As I write this, my last editorial for the Airstream, I am 10 days from taking command at March Air Reserve Base and 25 days from relinquishing command at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, but my thoughts are mostly on the upcoming Unit Compliance Inspection, Logistics Compliance Assessment Program and Health Services Inspection.

The last three years have been a remarkable success story for an already historically successful wing and it's important that the current inspection cycle continues the momentum we've built. I can point out, as I always do, the remarkable 2008 Operational Readiness Inspection, where an entire wing went to Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center and returned without a single answerable Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO) write-up. Nobody else can do that but the 910th Airlift Wing. Then the Open House and Airshow, back to back excellence down to the parking lots and transportation, not to mention the hospitality and professional performances. The feedback from the public was tremendous and always included a remark about the smiles and service attitude of our citizen-warriors.

I have been in several wings over the last 34 years and often pondered what makes one wing great and another, well, not so great. I believe that every wing has great people that want to serve and do well. I believe that great wings have an additional drive, an increased work ethic, that elevates them beyond the sum total of their parts. YARS clearly has this as a cultural heritage. I have had the opportunity to visit with a great number of retirees, they still come to the club, attend the Chief's meetings every Unit Training Assembly, man the Retiree Affairs office and just stop by the office occasionally to visit. They confirm my belief that they trained the current generation correctly and inculcated the right way to conduct ourselves both professionally and personally.

My charge to those in the wing that were lucky enough to be trained by the previous generation is to make sure that the next generation, now at the doorstep, have the same opportunities and are as well trained and taken care of as you were. My charge to those just entering my Air Force Reserve at Youngstown is to take advantage of every opportunity. Prepare yourselves with Air Force Specialty Code Training and Professional Military Education, get adopted by those supervisors and leaders that are worthy of your emulation, learn the warrior culture and ethos and most of all participate fully every chance you get.

Though I am moving on, I will carry away the most important thing that can be given to a commander at departure, the knowledge that the

people of the organization are prepared for any duty that this country could ask of them. I have not a single doubt that the men and women of the 910th AW will continue to "Fly, Fight, and Win" better than any other organization in the Air Force.

As part of my final column, I asked your incoming commander, Col. Stephen "Fritz" Linsenmeyer, to introduce himself to the YARS family.

*Hello 910th Airlift Wing! Colonel McGregor has given me an opportunity to share some of my thoughts and philosophy with you, and while you'll hear me espouse these ideas in person soon enough, here is the "gouge" or "dirty purple" on how I think and operate.*

*I look at the 910th as a large umbrella, with lots of smaller, individual umbrellas under the main umbrella. As a Wing, our goals and direction should be unified, keeping the big umbrella concept in mind. On the other hand, when I think big umbrella issues, I promise to keep all the other umbrellas in my crosscheck as well.*

*Two other things that I tend to focus on are relationships and communication. Good, positive relationships are one of the key ingredients in a successful organization. Communication, both up and down the chain, is another key ingredient in helping an organization succeed.*

*As your commander, one of my primary responsibilities is to get you the resources you need, so that you can do your job. I know that sounds pretty simple, but there are a lot of competing resources and requirements, and we are all sometimes pulled in two or three different directions. I am planning to sit down with the commanders and get their inputs on what we need to do to take the 910th to the next level of excellence.*

*Speaking of responsibilities, my top priority is to support the warfighter. We must win the fight we are in or everything else is moot. There are no other options other than to win. Our goal at the 910th is to do whatever it takes to win this war and to keep our great nation safe. That's why we, military and civilian personnel alike, serve our country.*

*Anyway, that's it in a nutshell, or should I say buckeye shell? Looking forward to serving with you.*

*Sincerely, Col. L+10*

# AIRMEN AT WORK

## YARS Reservist joins premier AF band

**Tech. Sgt. Dennis Kilker Jr.**  
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

One of the things that many Air Force Reservists look forward to is an opportunity to excel. When that opportunity is granted and recognized, for many, that ends up being the icing on the cake.

For Tech. Sgt. Kevin K. McGovern, his opportunity came when he filled out an application form while waiting in line at the YARS dining facility. The Air Force's premier entertaining group known as Tops in Blue came calling in response to Sergeant McGovern's application.

The Tops in Blue, currently celebrating its 55th year in existence, is an expeditionary entertainment unit comprised entirely of Air Force personnel. The group's main mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world.

While temporarily assigned to the Tops in Blue, Sergeant McGovern will serve as the transportation noncommissioned officer, or as he put it—a roadie. Specifically, he will be driving a truck, a job he is very familiar with. As a civilian, his full-time job is also as a truck driver.

Although Sergeant McGovern's job is mainly behind the scenes, in the event of an emergency, he may have to fill in as a performer.

"I actually had to sing and dance as part of the audition," said Sergeant McGovern.

According to Sergeant McGovern, this undertaking is not a small one. The stateside show tours with more than 65,000 pounds of equipment to put on a show.

To travel, the gear is loaded on two semi tractor trailers along with one sport utility

vehicle and a motor coach to tow the generator that provides power for the show.

"Most bases can't provide enough power to put on the show, [so] we bring our own generator," said Sergeant McGovern.

Sergeant McGovern, like many Air Force Reservists, started in another branch of the service. He began his military career in transportation with the Army Reserve for five years.

The Air Force Reserve, as it turns out, is a family affair. His wife, Senior Airman Michele R. McGovern is also in the 910th Medical Squadron.

**Tech. Sgt. Kevin McGovern, the 910th Force Support Squadron Readiness Training Supervisor poses for a photo at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, March 31. Sergeant McGovern is serving as transportation noncommissioned officer for Tops In Blue, an Air Force expeditionary entertainment unit. Their mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world.**



Tops in Blue courtesy photos



Air Force Tops in Blue performers sing "The Air Force Song," March 9, as their final performance of the night at the Abilene Civic Center, Abilene, Texas. Tops in Blue is an Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities. The group's main mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world. For more information, log on to the Tops in Blue Web site at [www.topsinblue.com](http://www.topsinblue.com).

### **The Airstream is published monthly by:**

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*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...**

Capt. Joe Bennington, a pilot assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, demonstrates the use of smoke as a signaling device during a survival training course held at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., Feb. 21 to 22. Captain Bennington and a group of Citizen Airmen from the 910th Airlift Wing, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, attended the course to fulfill their annual requirement to refresh the skills needed in case their aircraft would go down over land or water. Story and more photos on page 4. Cover photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

# YARS Aircrew make splash in Key West

## 910th Ops Group members attend combat, water survival training

Senior Airman Valerie Smock  
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A plane is flying over the Atlantic Ocean and suddenly something goes wrong. The plane crashes into the water and the crews on board must try to survive until help arrives. The skills needed to stay alive in such a scenario come from combat and water survival training. Members from the 910th Operations Group participated in that course at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., Feb. 21 to 22.

The training, which is required every three years for aircrews, lasts two days and is broken into two parts—combat and water.

During combat survival training, aircrews learned about signaling, reviewing the different components of the survival vests and land navigation, among others.

The main focus of the water survival training centers on using personal flotation devices and 20-man lift raft.

Training at any survival school helps give Airmen a better sense of confidence, said Master Sgt. Jonathan S. Merckens, a flight engineer assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron.

“We fly in relatively safe planes and most people probably don’t think about a plane going down, but it is a very real possibility,” said Sergeant Merckens. “This training equips us with the knowledge and skills to better prepare us for the unexpected and the ability to survive it.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

**Capt. Dan Henry, a 773rd Airlift Squadron pilot, climbs aboard a 20-person life raft as part of the water survival segment during a combat and water survival training course, Feb. 22. The course was held at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., Feb. 21 to 22, to refresh the skills needed in case an aircraft would go down over land or water.**

The aircrew trained in Key West because of the opportunity to utilize the ocean.

Sergeant Merckens previously participated in this open-water training. He and the crew were “rescued” by a Navy helicopter while marooned in the ocean.

“The actual motion of the waves, noise of a helicopter, salt spray and marine wildlife to contend with [during the training] can be stressful,” said Sergeant Merckens. “Additionally, it is helpful to be under the watchful eye of trained professionals in the event you do make a mistake which makes the training scenario as real world as possible.”

Although the helicopters were grounded due to inclement weather during this training, the aircrews completed their training in a pool on the Army’s Airborne training site.

“Anytime you are in the actual environment, you are going to get a more realistic and meaningful experience,” said Captain Jay B. Ference, an instructor pilot assigned to the 773rd Airlift Squadron.

Captain Ference said the training helped him realize that a survival situation in the open water is much different than on land.

“When you are in a survival situation on a raft with up to 20 people, it can be tricky to get even the simplest things accomplished,” said Captain Ference. “You are wet, usually cold and crammed into the raft. You have to establish a good chain of command and everyone has to understand their role.”

According to Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haupt, the aircrew flight equipment superintendent assigned to the 910th Operations Support Squadron, the training in Key West gives the crews a rare



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

**Capt. Jay Ference, a 773 AS pilot, watches as Senior Master Sgt. Jim Haupt, a 910 OSS AFE specialist, points to a map during a survival training course, Feb. 21.**

chance to utilize Navy, Coast Guard and Army resources while training in a realistic atmosphere away from their home unit.

“It is just hard to break away from home station with all the deployments, with all the support that the 910th gives to other units,” said Sergeant Haupt. “Sometimes you don’t have the personnel to do that with and when you do, you have to take that opportunity.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

**Maj. Issac Oh, a 773rd Airlift Squadron pilot, watches as a flare he shot from a pen-like launcher ignites high in the sky above Naval Air Station Key West, Feb. 21.**

# YARS Civic Leader Tour

**Senior Airman Valerie Smock**  
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station Civic Leader Tour was held Feb. 23 to 24, 2010. More than 30 civic leaders and five military personnel traveled on a C-130 to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to gain a better understanding of the Air Force Reserve's mission.

Civic leader tours are effective because they provide a direct link to the military mission that can only be experienced through interaction with Airman, their equipment and their stories, said Col. Karl McGregor, 910th Airlift Wing Commander.

"When you place a civic leader into the same C-130 seat that paratroopers have been using for 50 years or put them into a combat rescue helicopter for a flight around the flagpole, or have them in a conversation with a pararescue jumper, they are getting the real world experience that no other medium can deliver," said Colonel McGregor.

Patrick AFB is home to the Air Force Reserve's 920th Rescue Wing and the active duty 45th Space Wing. The civic leaders had the opportunity to get an inside look at the mission of these units.

The civic leader tours are not only a rare occasion to see what the

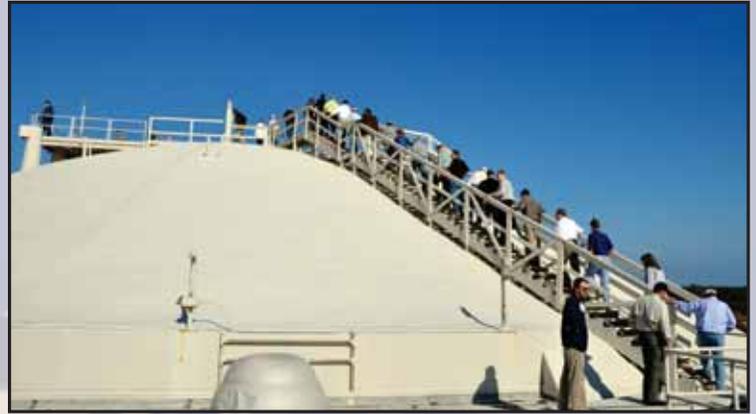


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Participants of the 2010 YARS Civic Leader Tour had the opportunity to learn about the Air Force Reserve's support of America's space program during a tour that included a visit to the historic Apollo program launch sites on Cape Canaveral AFS, Feb. 23.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Carcieri, a 920th Rescue Wing Citizen Airman, shows a high-tech medical training aid to a group of YARS civic leaders at Patrick AFB, Fla., Feb. 24.

mission of each base is, but it also helps those involved gain knowledge about the Air Force Reserve units, said Paul E. O'Brien, president of the YARS Base Community Council.

"Everyone that has been involved has come back with a complete new understanding of the Reserve forces," he said.

"The most common statement we hear is how professional, courteous, dedicated and patriotic these men and women are," said Mr. O'Brien.

Civic leaders not only toured Cape Canaveral Air Station, they experienced an aerial view of it from an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter.

"It was quite an experience to see not just the amazing setting

for today's current space shuttle program, but to also see the historical aspects of the Gemini and Apollo space program," said David Coy, president and general manager of WKBN/WYFX and WYTV/MyYTV, Youngstown-area television stations.

"To cruise out over the ocean and see it via Pave Hawk—that's quite an experience and quite a memory," he said.

Mr. Coy said the trip was beneficial to him because now he has a dual connection to the base from a media and community standpoint. There is also a better understanding of the mission from an employer standpoint because one of his employees is a Reservist serving at the base.

"I am always humbled when the civic leaders mention the great sacrifices made by our military members, especially those Reservists that manage a full-time job, family and their Reserve commitment all at the same time," said Colonel McGregor. "In order to truly appreciate the great military people and the work they perform, I believe you have to go to their source of pride—their workplace."

Mr. Coy said it was a great pleasure being involved with the Civic Leader Tour and he would enjoy being part of it in the future.

"What I took away from [the YARS Civic Leader Tour] on a personal level is that when you see what these great men and women do and the passion and commitment they bring to it every single day, it's amazing," said Mr. Coy. "It's awfully hard not to be very proud to be an American."



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

A group of more than 30 civic leaders traveled from Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, to Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., on a Civic Leader Tour, Feb. 23 to 24. One of the highlights of the tour, designed to give community leaders a better understanding of the Air Force Reserve mission, was an aerial tour of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station aboard a pair of HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters.

# NEWS

## 910th SFS named Outstanding Security Forces AF Reserve Unit

The 910th Security Forces Squadron was announced as the top Air Force Reserve Security Forces Unit for 2009, March 12.

The 910th SFS, commanded by Maj. Thomas White, will be honored along with the other 2009 SF winners, at an upcoming awards banquet.

“These awards bring much deserved credit to the units, installations and U.S. Air Force,” said Brig. Gen. Jimmy E. McMillian, the director of Security Forces, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

## IG receives John P. Flynn IG award

The 910th Airlift Wing Office of the Inspector General was selected by the Secretary of the Air Force IG for the John P. Flynn Inspector General Award Feb. 18, for outstanding installation level IG programs in the Reserve/Guard category.

“Congratulations to Col. Cynthia Wong and her staff for this fine accomplishment,” said Brig. Gen. Mark A. Kyle, Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General. “Their Leadership, dedication and desire to serve the Airmen of the 910th AW clearly make them worthy of this recognition.”

The 910th IG will be recognized, along with the other category winners, at an upcoming U.S. Air Force Inspector General Worldwide Conference.

## Command post Airman receives Air Force Reserve Command award

A Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airman received recognition from the Air Force Reserve Command March 15.

Senior Master Sgt. Joseph W. Plesniak was named 2009 AFRC Command Post Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.

Sergeant Plesniak will now compete at the Air Force level.

“Congratulations and best wishes to all the award recipients,” said Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., AFRC Commander. “I am extremely proud of their outstanding contributions and representation of the Air Force Reserve Command.”

## DD Form 214 requests, corrections

Official Department of Defense Form 214, Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty, is one of the most important documents a Servicemember will receive upon separation from active duty. In addition to providing a concise record of active service, it gives government agencies information needed to administer federal and state laws that apply to those who separate from the military.

The Veterans Administration uses the form to determine eligibility for benefits, such as the Montgomery GI Bill.

The U.S. Department of Labor uses the document to determine possible unemployment compensation and to determine re-employment rights.

YARS Airmen will receive a DD Form 214 when they complete a tour of active duty more than 90 consecutive days in length.

Servicemembers with a Common Access Card, have the capability to pull copies of their own documents, which includes the DD Form 214, through the Air Force Portal.

Copies or correction of DD Form 214 may be requested through the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center's Web site. <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/>

Requests for correction or a new issue may take up to 20 days depending upon complexity.

## YARS, DOD listening device and cellular phone hands-free policy

According to the Department of Defense Instruction, all listening devices are prohibited while on-foot on roadways at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

From DoDI 6055-04 Enclosure 3:

**c. Listening Devices. Prohibit the use of portable headphones, earphones, cellular phones, iPods or other listening and entertainment devices (other than hearing aids) while walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skating or skateboarding on roadways. Using listening devices impairs recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, approaching vehicles, human speech, and outside noise in general.**

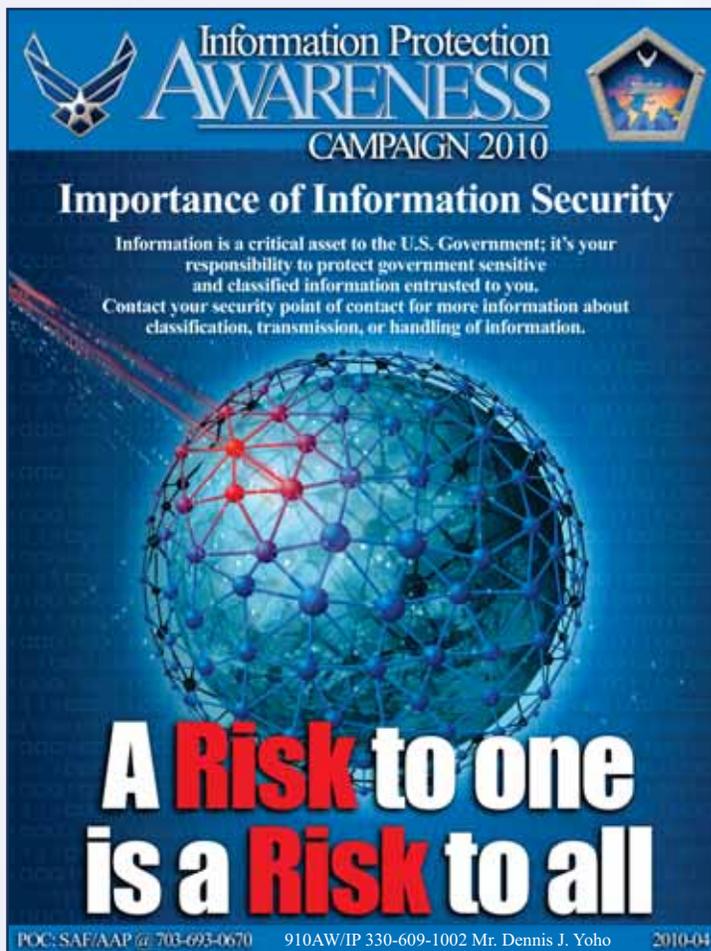
DoDI 6055.04 supersedes Air Force Instruction 91-207, The Air Force Traffic Safety Program dated May 22, 2007, that did allow the use of a single-bud earpiece.

The DoDI permits the use of cellular phone hands-free devices while operating an automobile on base roadways.

From DoDI 6055-04 Enclosure 3:

**(2) Ensure that operators of GMVs or GVOs on or off installations do not use cell phones or other hand-held electronic devices unless the vehicle is safely parked or they are using a hands-free device, except for receiving or placing calls in performance of duties from tactical or emergency vehicles.**

The use of listening devices is permitted on the two enclosed base running tracks.



The poster features a blue background with a central graphic of a globe made of interconnected nodes and lines, with a red laser beam pointing towards it. At the top left is the Air Force logo, and at the top right is a shield-shaped logo with a globe inside. The text reads: "Information Protection AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2010" and "Importance of Information Security". Below this, it states: "Information is a critical asset to the U.S. Government; it's your responsibility to protect government sensitive and classified information entrusted to you. Contact your security point of contact for more information about classification, transmission, or handling of information." At the bottom, the slogan "A Risk to one is a Risk to all" is written in large, bold letters, with "A Risk to one" in white and "is a Risk to all" in red. At the very bottom, there is a footer with contact information: "POC: SAF/AAP @ 703-693-0670 910AW/IP 330-609-1002 Mr. Dennis J. Yoho 2010-04".

# NEWCOMERS

Tech. Sgt. Michael Riegenbach, 910th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Donald J. Frost, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Staff Sgt. Gordon M. Wagner, 910th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Brian Kramer, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman George Pateras, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman 1st Class Kaylin E. Celedonia, 910th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Kelly M. Overstreet, 910th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class William Z. Payne, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman Joshua W. Fulmer, 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Airman Basic Joshua N. Molyneux, 910th Airlift Wing

Airman Basic Allen A. Young Jr., 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron

# PROMOTIONS



Craig C. Peters, 910th Operations Group Commander



Matthew K. Bentley, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron  
William J. Manley III, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron  
Chris H. Rilling Jr., 773rd Airlift Squadron



Duane A. Cribley, 910th Civil Engineer Squadron  
John D. Lucas, 910th Security Forces Squadron  
Amanda M. Pruchnicki, 910th Maintenance Squadron



Ryan A. Grubaugh, 76th Aerial Port Squadron  
John S. Hill, 910th Security Forces Squadron  
Arlon J. Johnson, 910th Security Forces Squadron  
Michele A. Kennedy, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Kyle R. Rhodes, 910th Security Forces Squadron  
Aaron J. Sargeant, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Sq.  
Jared L. Thompson, 910th Security Forces Squadron



Aaron S. Harmon, 910th Maintenance Squadron



Foster L. Williams, 910th Security Forces Squadron



Illustration by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.



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# Endings, new beginnings: all good things

Commentary and photo illustration by Senior Airman Brenda Haines

910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As I sit at my desk in the Public Affairs office of the 910th Airlift Wing, I am mulling over ideas for a “farewell story” for our installation commander, Col. Karl McGregor. I have interviews to schedule with Servicemembers that work closely with him, but I cannot focus on anything except my own personal experience since I joined the Air Force Reserve and the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in 2008.

I was previously an administrative specialist on active duty, serving in the U.S. Army. It has been 13 years and seems like a lifetime ago. I performed various tasks within the personnel department of a combat hospital overseas, provided support for deployments and at one point, worked as my installation commander’s secretary. I had what I consider a unique experience for a 19-year-old private first class. An experience that I believed prepared me to work directly for the commander here at the 910th. I realize now I was in for some surprises.

During my first unit training assembly, outfitted in my “urban camo,” I ran into Colonel McGregor while walking to the dining facility. My initial intimidation was replaced by surprise and ultimately eclipsed by sheer enthusiasm.

During our walk, the commander’s positive attitude was revealed to me as he talked about the base, the wonderful Servicemembers here and the visions he had. He told me how excited he was to have me as part of his PA staff.

After lunch, I walked back to the newcomers’ briefing amazed. During my time working so closely with my Army commander, I never had such an insightful conversation. I immediately recognized that Colonel McGregor’s approach to leadership was unique. He made me feel like I was an integral part of this base and I realized that I had made an excellent choice when I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and joined the YARS family.

During the summer of 2009, I worked on active duty at YARS as part of the Air Force’s seasoning training program. At that time, our office’s focus was doing our part to plan and execute the air show. Although it was a busy time for all on base, I made sure that I set time aside for daily physical training. There were many afternoons that Colonel McGregor joined me and other Airmen for a run—for me, a grueling run; for him ... refreshing.

Colonel McGregor gave me helpful PT advice and pushed me to work harder during our many runs. While we ran, he would point to buildings on base and tell stories about the units there, renovations that were scheduled and great things that were happening because of the hard-working, motivated YARS Airmen. This spirited information helped me to understand the YARS mission and I realized that he had set the wheels in motion for our wing.

So many things happened during those runs. Not only was I improving my

Col. Karl McGregor, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, addresses the audience during an October 2009 mass enlistment ceremony.

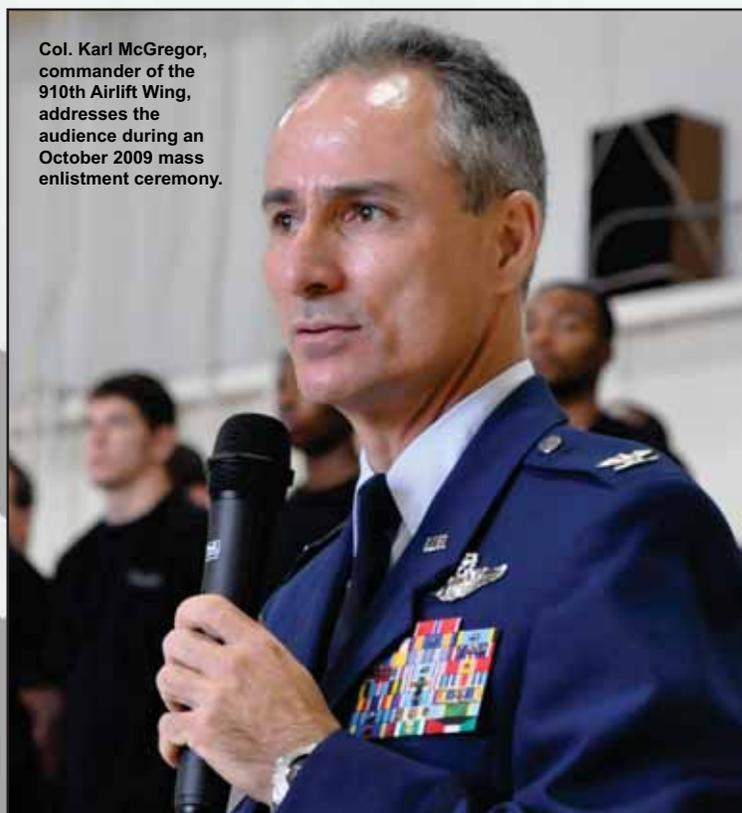


Photo by Senior Airman Brenda Haines

run time, I was pushing myself to be better through the quiet mentoring that Colonel McGregor gave to all of us. I was looking forward to embracing his vision and even wondering what I could do to help improve YARS. I was seeing my installation, my fellow Airmen and the Air Force in a new way—with pride.

During the past two years, I have witnessed many wonderful things at YARS. We built a new lodging building, put on a stellar air show, began many renovations, participated in countless community relations projects and volunteered aircraft and crews for the Haiti humanitarian missions.

Now it is time now to say farewell to an unconventional, visionary leader. Colonel McGregor has been a big influence in my military career and I know that I am not alone. As the YARS family turns another page in our history book, we can expect the motivation, improvements and “all good things” to continue here while under the command of a new, exceptional leader.