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910th COMMANDER



Col. Dan Sarachene

PUBLISHER

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ON THE COVER: A C-130H Hercules aircraft performs a low-altitude aerial spray pass while dispersing water over the assault runway during an aerial spray course at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, May 9, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Eric M. White)

IN THE BACKGROUND: A 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft sits on the ramp during an engine-running crew change before takeoff from Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Oct. 5, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Drew Tancer)

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910th AIRLIFT WING MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force.

VISION STATEMENT

Providing unrivaled tactical airlift, aerial spray, and agile combat support—Always ready to answer our nation’s call!

PRIORITIES

1. Recruit, Train, Retain vested Airmen.
2. Foster a culture of unrivaled excellence through empowerment, engagement, innovation and accountability.
3. Develop professional, resilient, and ready Airmen.
4. Care for Airmen and their families.
5. Modernize and maintain facilities and equipment.



910th Airlift Wing Leadership



Col. Dan Sarachene
910th Airlift Wing
Commander



Col. Joe Janik
910th Airlift Wing
Vice Commander



CMSgt. Robert Potts
910th Command Chief
Master Sergeant



Col. Don Wren
910th Mission Support
Group Commander



Lt. Col. Bart Elsea
910th Operations
Group Commander



Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer
910th Maintenance
Group Commander

FROM THE TOP



Col. Dan Sarachene
910th Airlift Wing Commander

Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She said, “When we work hard all day long, it feels like we are only a drop in the ocean. But if our individual drops were not in the ocean, the ocean would be dry.” Each one of you, Reserve Citizen Airman, Air Reserve Technician, Civil Servant or Contractor—all Airmen—is a drop in the 910th Airlift Wing ocean. Without each of you, we would be dry and our mission lost.

Each of us on this installation is important to the larger Air Force mission to fly, fight and WIN. In our line of work, losing is not an option. Yet we are not a force with strength in numbers. Therefore, we must be a committed force with strength in capability and competence. Each of us is important to the daily efforts to earn the smaller “wins,” so when the time comes the capability and competence of those who can mobilize fuse into confidence so the big Win is assured. The small wins reside in the daily “W-I-N,” What’s Important Now? Mostly, it’s the task at hand or the job requirement. Fundamentally, it’s ensuring the Reserve Citizen Airmen of the Wing achieve readiness through currency, proficiency and expertise, and for all of us, becoming “badass.” Yes, badass, the best version of you! Better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today. Why? Because the truth is you cannot settle for less than you can give, but more importantly the person next to you deserves your best. We may work alone at times; however we don’t accomplish our mission individually, we do it as a team. Just as you would want to be surrounded with the best teammates in the best environment with the best tools, this team needs you to bring your best. A measurement of your best is demonstrated through trust, internally and externally. Can you be trusted? Can the American citizens trust the 910th to deliver results that win? Trust is a three-dimensional commodity demonstrated through character, confidence and connection that’s earned every day. The more those are developed, the higher the trust factor you deliver to the team. Trust in each other fosters team cohesion. The most effective teams have an uncommon commitment to each other. A committed team performs its best. The better the team performs, the greater the trust we receive from the nation. Essentially, teamwork is really a form of trust. It’s what happens when you surrender the mistaken idea that you can go it alone and realize that you won’t achieve your individual goals without the support of your colleagues. The mission isn’t accomplished without putting the team first. You realize that when the team succeeds, you succeed.

Overcoming adversity and challenge are inherent in the little wins. Leadership is the difference maker in those wins. When you commit to your “badass” best self, to the team and your profession, you become something bigger than yourself, motivating others to do the same. Leadership is exhibited through personal resilience, drive and determination to face challenges head-on. Just as we rise to the level of ability, not occasion, the team rises to the level of leadership, not authority. Don’t confuse authority with leadership. Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It’s about impact, influence and inspiration, required of every one of us. Impact involves getting results. Influence is about spreading the passion you have for your work and inspiring your teammates to move off the mountain of average; from the ordinary to the extraordinary, necessary for high performance to succeed in our highly aspirational and no fail environment.

When you are grinding away at the duty at hand, from job-related to training, from administrative to fulfilling readiness requirements, remain disciplined and take pride in knowing the daily little wins of a weekend Unit Training Assembly, or of the work week, add up into confidence so we can deliver the big Win when it’s needed. Just as there is no forest without trees, without those little wins, we cannot assure the big Win. Winning in the past does not guarantee winning in the future. George Washington said, “To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.” Work hard, lead yourself to be your best. Leadership is the difference maker; ordinary won’t deliver the results we need. Garner the cohesive trust your fellow Airmen require to succeed and our Nation deserves. Be the teammate you would want others to be, for we accomplish objectives as a team. You are the 910th, and the 910th is you. Be energized everyday for those little wins, because preparedness is effective and readiness has never been more necessary. Your contributions to the wins on this installation are essential for our mission success: providing a current, qualified, mission-ready force so the United States Air Force can Fly, Fight and Win!

Never forget how important you are, Airman.





Col. Joe Janik
910th Airlift Wing Vice Commander

Fellow 910th members, as my first year as the vice commander winds down, I want to thank everyone for making myself and my family feel welcomed into the 910th family. One word that describes 2018 is: readiness. The year started off with directed annual tour from the AFR commander to accelerate our readiness. We ended 2018 with Operation Buckeye Thunder to test our command, control and communication under various scenarios. Throughout the year, the wing has sent hundreds of deployers around the globe to multiple combatant commanders, some who were not able to be with family and friends this past holiday season.

Although the Air Force Reserve Command is 70,000 strong, that does not come close to filling the Ohio State Buckeye's football stadium. Realize that you are a part of something bigger than yourself and everyone brings value added to the mission. We need each and every one of you to bring your "A" game and to be ready. Before Senator John McCain's passing he said, "Our identities and sense of worth are not circumscribed but enlarged by serving good causes bigger than ourselves." Approximately only .6% of the U.S. population serves in our military forces. Realize you are a part of something larger than yourself. You are a part of Team Youngstown. Our reservists continually harmonize between family, civilian employment/school and reserve duty. There is no harder job in the Air Force than that of a traditional reservist who is staying current, qualified and mission-ready. Our reserve and guard forces have transitioned from a strategic U.S. asset to a full operational force, constantly training and deploying—ready to answer our nation's call. You know that all too well.

As we close 2018, all of us realize we could not serve our country without the support of our families. While we are fortunate enough to put on our uniform and serve our country, we would not be able to do it without their support. Although they may not put on a uniform, they no doubt are the unsung heroes of our military force. Please thank them for their continued support of you and the Air Force mission.

2019 promises to be another year full of opportunities and challenges. Many of our deployers that we have sent to multiple AORs will return home as we prepare to send our operations and maintenance package out the door in the spring. In September, the wing is also scheduled for our Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI). The UEI is an external continual evaluation of Wing performance based on four major graded areas: executing the mission, leading people, improving the unit and managing resources. The UEI falls under the Air Force Inspection System, or AFIS. Here at Youngstown, we like to call it the Air Force Improvement System. We strive to promote an environment in which our members are empowered to participate in and contribute to our effective mission accomplishment by recognizing better ways to do things and channeling that information up the chain of command.

So for 2019, be ready, resilient and postured for success.

Joseph D. Janik



Chief Master Sgt. Bob Potts
910th Airlift Wing Command Chief

A"Never be satisfied with what you achieve, because it all pales in comparison with what you are capable of doing in the future." —Rabbi Nochem Kaplan
s we enter 2019, we see many opportunities to improve and succeed in our military and civilian careers, and we hope that there will be more success than failure. Our optimism flourishes as we seek new challenges. The new year often brings hope that it will bring more joy and less sorrow, more victory and less pain, greater gain and less loss. I hope for these things too; however, hope alone is not a strategy. We must apply specific milestones to our hopes and dreams to make a goal. This year, resolve to make your goals SMART. Opportunity doesn't knock twice...success depends on our willingness to accept risk. Few things in life are easy; when things start to feel easy where you are, that's a good indicator that it's time to move on and accept a new challenge. Your attitude when faced with challenges and opportunities will get you through even the most difficult times.

"Imagining what you want as if it already exists opens the door to letting it happen." —Shakti Gawain

Turning your dreams into reality starts with the end in mind. SMART Goals are goals which are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely. If you apply the SMART goal principle into your goals in life and career you are much more likely to achieve those goals. When you apply this principle to your dreams you transform your dream to a plan that will help you maintain a laser focus on achieving your goal. The 910th Airlift Wing Mission, Vision and Priorities are a good example of beginning with the end in mind. "To provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force" clearly states our purpose or the "Why" of our existence as an enterprise. Our Mission statement is not just a lofty goal that sounds good. It is our singular purpose of existence; it is the reason each of us puts on our uniform and comes to work. Everything we do must work to achieve that objective, and we must collaborate for success.

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." —Thomas Edison

Opportunities to accept a new challenge, improve on a process, mentor fellow Airmen or leverage the talent of others must not be missed. We must be vigilant sentries, actively seeking opportunity to achieve our Mission. We must be willing to work hard to accept the challenge and employ all necessary resources to fulfill our expectations from ourselves, our leadership and our nation. 910th priorities number two and five support our responsibility to innovate: "Foster a culture of unrivaled excellence through empowerment, engagement, innovation and accountability." Number five says, "Modernize and maintain facilities and equipment." Being good stewards of our resources is a minimal expectation. Ours is a responsibility to improve wherever and whenever we can. There are Squadron innovation funds which provide financial resources necessary to work on these opportunities to improve.

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." —Winston Churchill

Maintaining a positive attitude in the face of challenges and failure is essential to finding success in our endeavors. Airmen of all ranks must consider failure a positive thing. When we learn from our failures we "fail forward," which means we'll be better the next time. Never be risk averse; instead, be willing to accept a certain amount of risk and maintain a positive attitude and growth mentality at all times. Our rewards for taking risk are increased readiness, improved efficiency and reduced costs. We are required to be ready in 72 hours; we must explore every opportunity to increase readiness. Don't let an opportunity pass you by that may help you achieve your goals. Remember your SMART goals, and be sure to help yourself whenever possible.

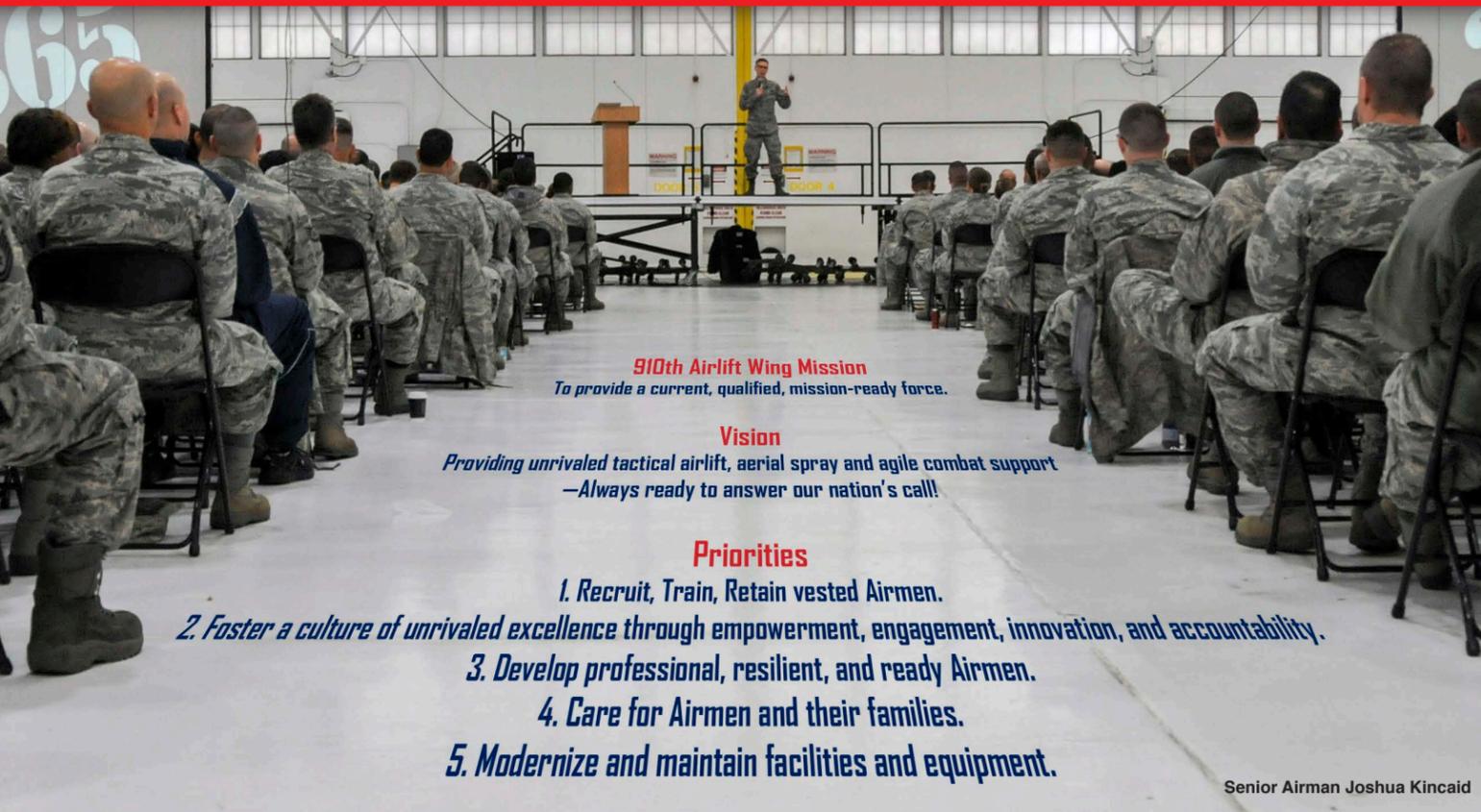
"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." —Winston Churchill

Setting SMART goals, recognizing opportunity and maintaining a positive attitude throughout your daily challenges will help you be the best Airmen you can be. We need every Airman pulling in the same direction to achieve our Mission and fulfill the Air Force mission to fly, fight and win. We are all in this together...there is no challenge we cannot overcome when we work together.

Within the Air Force Reserve, there are virtually limitless opportunities for you to grow and develop yourself personally and professionally. Consider applying for a Developmental Special Duty such as Airman and Family Readiness, MTI, Recruiter or First Sergeant. You can apply for a First Sergeant position at YARS. Information may be found on the Command Chief's SharePoint page. Apply for Developmental Education through the Enlisted Developmental Education Board or Reserve School Selection Boards. Information may be found on MyPers. Aim High, Airmen!

Robert Potts

A Commander's Farewell



910th Airlift Wing Mission
To provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force.

Vision
Providing unrivaled tactical airlift, aerial spray and agile combat support
—Always ready to answer our nation's call!

- Priorities**
1. Recruit, Train, Retain vested Airmen.
 2. Foster a culture of unrivaled excellence through empowerment, engagement, innovation, and accountability.
 3. Develop professional, resilient, and ready Airmen.
 4. Care for Airmen and their families.
 5. Modernize and maintain facilities and equipment.

Senior Airman Joshua Kincaid

If we can build an international space station, surely we can build a culture that succeeds on earth.

If you've been around me for any amount of time these nearly two years, you've seen me carrying around my "PowerPoint" presentation slide of our strategic plan. Maybe you've seen it on a table in the dining facility or posted on our SharePoint homepage or, most hopefully, on a wall in your squadron building. On that slide is spelled out our purpose, (to provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force) our vision (what we aspire to) and the priorities we've established to ensure our purpose is carried out and to enable us to reach our vision. There's been a lot written on organizational plans and strategic alignment. It's not rocket science, but we can learn some things from those scientists.

If you have a chance to visit the Space Center in Houston, you'll be amazed at how far we've come in the human race. Take, for example, the International Space Station (ISS). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) says the space station is the greatest human technological achievement. How was it accomplished? Take a few moments to think about the complexities involved in that achievement. First, it is an international partnership of space agencies. The partners come from the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan and Canada. Each of those countries has its own hardware, logistics, research funding streams, social complexities and languages. Secondly, parts of the space station were launched from different countries and continents and not mated together until they reached orbit. Some pieces have been launched later in the assembly sequence, others not yet built when the first parts were placed in orbit. That is truly a "mission impossible" made possible. That's inspiring, a true testament to how the impossible can also be possible here on earth.

Back to my presentation slide: It describes our strategic plan, which is worthless if we can't put the planning—the action—behind the words of the

plan. Just as a shovel can't dig a hole without a person using it, a strategic plan can't get implemented without the culture driving it. It's culture's job to drive execution of the strategy that wins (create the results we desire). Culture is not some feel-good proposition, unless, of course, you feel good about success and winning. It takes work.

Culture is the result of the values we share that drives our behavior and the experience the behavior creates in the organization. Culture = values (beliefs), behavior, experience. Ideally, the experience aligns with the results we desire. Those result are ultimately what we are measured by.

To put it into a visual perspective, let's use the analogy of a house for our culture. The foundation of the house is our shared values. The walls are our behavior and the roof is the experience delivered. Values, behavior, experience.

Our shared values start with the Air Force Core Values. Core in Latin (cor) means "of the heart." If you were to go see a coronary doctor, that would be for your heart. Core values are at the heart of our beliefs. We hold them true, and we must demonstrate them through our behavior. Values don't reside on a wall, they reside in our hearts, at our core. We hold additional shared organizational core values like safety, accountability, openness, transparency, respect, timeliness, innovation and inclusion. You've probably heard me speak of trust, teamwork and leadership—values I believe essential to drive winning behavior. Values, unlike vices, never steer us wrong. They are the beliefs that lie at the foundation of our organization and hold up our behavior.

Posters don't build a culture, our behavior does. Posters are good reminders of the values we hold, like traffic signs on roads to ensure orderly flow. What we actually believe is measured by how we behave. Behavior and performance indicate what we actually believe in our hearts. We can say we believe in integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do, but under pressure what we actually do reflects what we actually believe. If we say we

believe in process improvement, do we use its systems when we're looking to change, or do we default to guts, hunches and decision by position? If we believe in mutual respect, do we remain calm, cool and collected when conditions become tense? Under pressure, our default behavior needs to be in alignment with our values. Pressure can be positive and negative. Behavior over time is a reflection of what we believe. The walls of our house must be sturdy to withstand the storms of adversity and challenge. Resilient and aligned walls on a strong foundation have the capacity to hold the roof.

We judge ourselves by our intentions. People judge us by the experience we deliver. I believe all of us have the best intentions. We've all asked to be part of this organization and come to work ready to make a difference. Most of us have taken an oath, a commitment to serve. It's truly inspiring to meet newcomers and mingle with Development and Training Flight Airmen who are hungry to serve. However strong our intentions are, it's the experience we actually deliver that is measured. Do squadrons deliver zero defects (deployment-ready Airmen) to the Installation Deployment Readiness Cell? Do all Airmen report on time to assigned training, and does the Wing have zero non-currents? You may feel good knowing you intended to stay current or you meant to complete a requirement on time, yet the metric, what counts, is the actual experience delivered. If we believe in comprehensive Airman fitness, if we believe in the Air Force inspection (improvement) program, if we believe in ready in 72 hours, then our results will demonstrate such. We are what our record is and we're only as good as the next challenge. Our roof needs to be aligned with our walls to withstand the winds of change and the heat of readiness. A misaligned roof with holes will not maintain the integrity of the house. And the house won't keep us safe and warm and won't last.

We have a culture. It's either by design or default. What we need is one designed as a strong, stable and aligned house built with intention, discipline and skill. We all have a part in the culture. It's built by one of us at a time; you are the culture. Inattentiveness or misdirection will take us off the path. Autopilots work on airplanes, not with culture. The purpose of culture is to generate the behaviors that win in executing the strategic plan.

Our house remains in development, and like elements of the ISS launched into space to improve it after it was built, we too can improve our culture. Beliefs, behavior, experience. It's not impossible to get the experience we want and our Nation deserves. Practice it, promote it, permit it. Put into operation, the strategic success will be unmatched and truly "Badass."

All good things must come to an end, and the best thing that has happened to me in my professional life has been the honor and the privilege of commanding the 910th Airlift Wing. I leave with unfinished business, yet such is the nature of this type of position. There is always something on the horizon of an operational unit. Soon, we'll welcome home the last of the Agile Combat Support deployers. In the coming months, the 910th will once again deploy airplanes and personnel to the AOR. It's imperative we learn from every deployment and prepare our Airmen and families for the next one.

We need to have in place the processes, training, equipment and systems to ensure our 910th deployers not merely survive, but thrive. In a few months, the Wing will have another UEI. We've made significant improvements this past year and are on a good path to provide winning results. There remains much work to do. It really comes down to unit level cohesion, processes, systems, teamwork and leadership. Remember, we are graded by performance, not intentions. During the last full inspection, we received an Ineffective grade. At my core, I believe we are much better than that. We've made positive progress in the area of Improving the Unit as demonstrated during the IG re-visit; we can't lose sight of the programs across the Wing. We need to show the momentum continues and we are a "badass" wing—the opportunity is right in front of us. We'll need to work together through a strong culture to produce the results we must. Be disciplined, the results will have lasting implications. The Chicago Bear's legendary coach, George Halas, said, "Nobody who ever gave their best regretted it." Commanders come and they go, but you don't serve the leader as much as you serve the mission. We should do our jobs no matter the position. We succeed as a team. Every Wing has a strategy. Culture is the link most organizations don't make. Hold each other accountable to the values that drive the behaviors necessary to effectively execute the strategic plan, and success is certain to follow.

My ride with you is about to end. In February, we'll have a change of command. It's a bittersweet moment. This opportunity has been very challenging and extremely rewarding. I'm excited to hand the guidon to Col. Joe Janik. It's a rare event in the Reserve to have the Vice Commander step into the Commander role. Col. Janik has been here longer than year. He knows the Wing and can keep the momentum going to take on the challenges ahead. He is a good man and great Airman with character and competence. The 910th is in good hands!

Winston Churchill is noted for saying, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." There is a framed picture with the quote on my office wall. I believe it is so true. I see that word, attitude, on every drive in to the base. The challenges are great, and with so much out of our control at times it seems we can't see the big picture. Yet no matter the situation, a good attitude will make everything brighter; it is the sign of a strong and resilient person. Yes, a good attitude can make all the difference. All rides eventually end, yours will too. Enjoy the ride!

Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Some trails are happy ones,
Others are blue.
It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.

Daniel J. Sanchez



Eric M. White



Story and photo by Eric M. White

CAREER ALIGNMENT PAVES PATH FOR CYBER SQUADRON

In a small, nondescript building in the back corner of Youngstown Air Reserve Station, a team of approximately 12 Information Technology specialists is hard at work. Most of the team's members work in IT fields for private companies, universities or government agencies, but today, they wear Air Force uniforms. Their job is to develop, maintain and advance an invisible shield surrounding the 910th Airlift Wing's aircraft and infrastructure. The shield must be dynamic and stalwart to maintain resiliency, evolving just as quickly as adversaries develop new weapons targeting the Air Force's critical assets.

Master Sgt. Robert Beveridge is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 910th Communications Squadron's cyber systems operations section. Beveridge stands at the forefront of cyber operations for the 910th AW, but his contributions to cyber defense are greater than the sum of his Reserve duties with an impact far broader than his role at YARS.

Beveridge joined the Air Force soon after high school, enlisting to become a weather specialist following in his father's footsteps who retired from the same Air Force career field in 1975.

"I knew I wanted to give back, to serve, to do something," said Beveridge.

Reserve Citizen Airmen serve within a particular career field, but the part-time nature of their Reserve commitment allows them to pursue opportunities outside of the Reserve. Some are Air Force lawyers and stay-at-home parents. Some are Air Force firefighters who own

contracting businesses. Others are Air Force dentists who operate private practices. Beveridge's private ventures provide a powerful complement to his Reserve duty, allowing him to oversee the development of the training he conducts for the 910th CS. Beveridge is the senior cyber security engineer team lead for the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. His complementary career paths took some careful orchestrating.

In 1991, while serving in the Air Force, he earned a Bachelor's of Science in computer information systems, much at the insistence of his mother. His civilian career led to a position as a systems and network engineer. In 2003, Beveridge wanted to align his Air Force and civilian careers, so he cross-trained into communications with the 171st Communications Squadron of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Career opportunities moved him to YARS in 2015. He quickly fell in love with the leadership, people and unit.

Later that year, while assigned to the 910th CS, Beveridge started hearing about the Cyber Squadron Initiative and metamorphosis of Air Force IT specialists from service deliverers into network defenders. His first question upon hearing about the initiative was, "When are we going to be involved in that?"

On a personal level, Beveridge's question was answered in 2016 when the Air Force contacted his team at the Software Engineering Institute. Familiar with their experience in developing

cyber training for the Department of Defense, the Air Force asked them to develop curriculum for Mission Defense Teams, dedicated cyber defense specialists. MDTs, the bulwark of cyber squadrons, work to protect the Air Force's five core missions. The training platform would be used to qualify MDTs at pathfinder units, pioneering communications squadrons that would form templates for other units to follow.

More recently, Beveridge is finding the answer to his question at YARS as he trains his team of Reserve Citizen Airmen via the same platform he helped develop through the Software Engineering Institute.

The 910th CS is slated to begin officially transforming into a cyber squadron in fiscal year 2019 by rolling out MDTs, but Beveridge's initiative in developing, delivering, assessing and improving the training platform within the 910th has the unit ahead of schedule.

"That's what I've been undertaking on the civilian side for the last two years," Beveridge said. "Because of that, I'm able to bring that training here."

Maj. Russell Whitlock is the commander of the 910th CS. He says MDTs are the primary focus in transforming communications squadrons into cyber squadrons. They help usher in an operational mindset rather than a support squadron mindset

"The cyber squadron initiative, and internally to that, the MDT's effort," said Whitlock, "is to assure the mission and vision of the 910th Airlift Wing, to provide that current, qualified, mission-

ready force by protecting the installation's key cyber terrain."

Whitlock sees tremendous advantage to having a highly-qualified asset such as Beveridge on hand during the transition.

"My job at the Software Engineering Institute is to train DoD in cyber security," said Beveridge. "So a lot of my customers are the cyber mission force from U.S. Cyber Command. We developed an entry-level course in taking the cyber systems folks that are really trained to do information assurance and service delivery and training them to do cyber."

As with any new undertaking, there are some questions that will need answered.

According to Whitlock, once a mission assurance mindset has fully set in, leaders will have to ensure that service delivery and support for network assets remain intact. Some of that will have to be formulated as the concept evolves.

Whitlock says the key question cyber squadrons hope to answer is, "can people actually do their jobs?" Their goal is to verify and ensure that people have safe and secure network assets that offer the full functionality necessary for their work. The goal is to promote mission assurance. Whitlock insists that with Beveridge's unique skill set, forward-thinking approach and private career connections, he'll be a critical part of the future.

Although Beveridge intentionally aligned his Reserve and civilian careers, he often marvels at just how well they mesh together. Some of his favorite endeavors have been hosting cyber skills competitions conducted by his Carnegie Mellon team but involving his 910th team. A recent three-day event, Cyber Lightning, featured personnel from several military units competing in skill sets such as malware hunting, vulnerability detection and mitigation strategies within an exercise network platform. Such exercises allow Beveridge to see how well his training platforms are working by testing the very people those platforms target.

"Because I'm in those two worlds, it allows me to make that sort of thing happen," said Beveridge. "That's thrilling to me, I don't ever want it to end."

While both balancing and interweaving his Reserve duties with his civilian pursuits, Beveridge's recent opportunities have awoken a newfound passion for education and mentorship. He is enrolled in a PhD program for instructional management and leadership through Robert Morris University.

"My goal is not just to educate myself but to mentor the next generation coming in," said Beveridge, "to continue pushing that, educate, lead by example and really push, especially the younger troops, to never stop learning."

The cyber squadron transformation is full of challenges, but due to the contributions of one 910th Reserve Citizen Airman, the transition is a bit smoother, both for the 910th and the Air Force as a whole.



Dance runs deep in Reservist's heart

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

It is common to dream of a life on stage. One person may dream of becoming a rock star while another wants to become an actor or actress on the silver screen. These dreams are reflected in our media through shows like "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol" where viewers can catch a glimpse of a hopeful performer's rise to stardom, if only for 60 minutes each week. Although very few understand the cost of making these dreams a reality, one Reserve

Citizen Airman at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, knows what it takes to live a life on stage.

Master Sgt. Marie D. Spencer, an aerospace and services medical technician with the 910th Medical Squadron here, aimed high well before she joined the Air Force Reserve. At the age of three, Spencer showed an interest in dance.

"It's a typical age for people to put their daughters in dance," said Spencer. "My mom put me into ballet lessons once a week. Nothing

too crazy."

Spencer said her parents never thought it would turn into anything significant when they put her into ballet, that it would just be an activity for their daughter to do.

"I always remember my parents being very supportive of dance, but also leaving the choice completely up to me," she said. "The only thing they enforced was that I upheld my commitment. Telling me that, 'If you agree to do dance this year, you will finish the year out'

I think that links to my success in the military."

As the years progressed, Spencer said that she found interest in other hobbies alongside dance, like Girl Scouts and playing the piano. However, as her skills in ballet improved, lessons slowly increased from one night a week to two, then three, absorbing more and more of Spencer's time. This presented Spencer with her first true crossroad in life.

"I remember one year I had to make the decision between piano or ballet lessons because we could only afford one," said Spencer. "I picked ballet."

As the seriousness of her dance lessons increased to pre-professional levels, Spencer switched dance studios, introducing her to a wide variety of dance styles. At the start of her freshman year, Spencer auditioned to attend Coventry High School, a performing arts high school.

"In middle school, I began to feel like I didn't fit in," she said. "My school was like a lot of other schools and was heavily into traditional sports and centered on the jocks and the cheerleaders. I felt kind of like I belonged on the Island of Misfit (Toy)s from Rudolph (the Red-Nosed Reindeer). I couldn't explain myself to other people, and it didn't seem like my classmates had the same appreciation for the activities I was involved in."

Upon her acceptance at Coventry, Spencer immediately felt at home.

"For the first time, I felt like I could be myself around other people, and I could be proud of what I was involved in without being embarrassed," said Spencer.

At this point, Spencer was dancing five to seven days a week. She would live, eat and sleep ballet.

"It isn't all pink tutus, rainbows and butterflies," said Spencer. "Ballet is raw, it is rough, it is hard. TV paints this completely different picture; it looks innocent, it looks sweet, it looks cute. But true dancing as you get older is tough. What you're asked to do to your body is absolutely insane. It's more of a sport, and dancers don't get enough credit in that category."

Spencer recalled going to class in the middle of winter wearing flip flops so injuries sustained by her feet being in pointe shoes would have time to heal and how various forms of self-applied first aid made her no stranger to gore.

Spencer said, "My toenails would get bruised and start to fall off, you know? Dancers always laugh, we perform surgery on ourselves. We'd all be on the floor at night taking our toenails off."

But Spencer pressed on; it was her way of life. Leading up to the end of her freshman year, Spencer looked into summer programs so that she could continue her dancing. At the age of 14, she was selected to dance for the Ballet Met in Columbus, Ohio. According to the Columbus Ballet Met website, it inspires 125,000 audience members through local

performances at home, touring shows and academy classes. As a dance academy, it has impacted more than 1,500 students each year since its opening in 1978 and ranks among the nation's 20 largest professional ballet companies.

This was Spencer's first taste of a life on the road and time away from most of her family. Each summer, Spencer would audition and attend one of these summer programs.

"I remember being on the road a lot, always auditioning for things," said Spencer. "Me and my mom would go on these long car rides across the country just to audition at places in Oklahoma, Virginia, all over really. It was really a great bonding experience for us."

When Spencer was 16, she was also selected for the Joffrey Ballet in New York City on a scholarship. With the support of her parents and additional financial aid from her grandfather, Spencer found herself on a flight to New York City with her parents, knowing full well that they were dropping her off just to fly back home. There were no chaperones and no safety nets.

"The fast pace of New York City was definitely my first big culture shock," said Spencer. "The hustle and the bustle, the getting on and getting off of the subway; you just got to keep moving. I can honestly say though, New Yorkers are fantastic. It was the best summer of my life."

It was during that summer that Spencer was first contacted for a professional job.

"After one of my classes I was approached by this woman offering me a job in Las Vegas," said Spencer. "I had to explain to her that I was still 16, and I was going back to Ohio to finish High School."

She gave the woman her parents' phone number back home and went on with her day.

After getting a taste of what life as a dancer would be like, Spencer put her nose to the grindstone so she could graduate early from high school in her junior year. She did so, with honors. After her graduation, Spencer began looking for jobs dancing in Oklahoma and in Virginia, but after a late-night phone call from the woman in New York City, she decided to accept the job in Las Vegas with the Nevada Ballet Theatre at the age of 17.

"I was on the phone for like two-and-a-half hours," said Spencer. "My parents had to be wondering who in the world I was talking to. Eventually I came downstairs and said, 'Mom, Dad, I'm moving to Las Vegas in two months.'"

For a year, Spencer danced with the Nevada Ballet Theatre. She said that the professional dancing world was tough. She was expected to be in the studio doing classes and rehearsal without a truly livable wage. In addition to dancing, Spencer had to pick up jobs in retail and as a nanny. After analyzing

her situation and the pressures she encountered while at NBT, Spencer decided to audition for the Milwaukee Ballet in Wisconsin. It provided a change of pace and a closer proximity to her family.

Spencer danced for the Milwaukee Ballet for two-and-a-half years before she decided, at the age of 20, it was time for her to move to something new in life, starting with attending Akron University in 2004.

"I wanted to leave on my own terms and bow out gracefully," said Spencer. "I wanted to close that chapter in my life as I would a performance on stage."

It was Spencer's mother that first pointed her toward the medical field, and a fellow

student informed her of the Air Force Reserve's Tuition Assistance which aided her in graduating from Cleveland State in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences.

"There I was, a broke dancer that didn't know what to do with her life, and when I

heard there was a way to get school paid for I decided to start looking into it."

Spencer said that for her it was not hard to switch to a military lifestyle and that she did far more than she ever thought she was capable of.

"I fell in love with it," said Spencer. "I knew this was for me. When you're doing chest compressions on someone, trying to save their life, you find your value. You have a stake, you're doing something worth doing. In the arts it's hard to show that worth to someone on the outside, here you're essential."

Though performing ballet on stage was like nothing else Spencer ever experienced, she said performing her duties as a medical professional is its own experience.

"Doing my duties as a medical professional is kind of like being on my own stage," said Spencer. "Being able to help someone and see them appreciate your efforts provides me equally as much joy as getting on stage and expressing myself"

Though it started as a way to offset the steep price of college, Spencer has now spent 12 years of her life as a Reserve Citizen Airman. In her civilian life, Spencer has a full time job at the Veteran Affairs hospital in Cleveland as an intermediate care technician. During her time there, Spencer participated in a new pilot program to create new roles for military medics, who are required to understand a wide scope of practice so they can perform life-saving duties while in combat situations. The VA recognized this untapped resource and pushed for the creation of an exclusive position that Spencer and other military medics like her fill.

"If I learned anything, it's that the sky is the limit," said Spencer. "No matter what you do in life, look at what your actions are doing to make you a better person, doing to build your character, to build your foundation."

"Although dance seems like a simple form of entertainment, it's at the heart of who I am."

GOLDEN GLOVES HALL OF FAME AND A 37-YEAR AIR FORCE CAREER

Story and photo by Eric M. White



The 910th Airlift Wing (AW) upholds the Air Force values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Those values are most evident in the melting pot of personnel from varied backgrounds and walks of life that call the 910th their home unit. Master Sgt. Leslie (Les) Parkey, an Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman with the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is one such exemplar of excellence who proudly wears the Reserve Citizen Airman uniform every day. Parkey, a lifelong resident of Warren, Ohio, was inducted into the Trumbull County African-American Achievers Association (TCAAAA) Hall of Fame on Feb. 24, 2018, recognizing his decades of selfless service to his nation and résumé of community service in his hometown.

Parkey spent the first seven years of his life in the projects of Warren before moving in with his dad and stepmom. The turbulence of his childhood led to trouble in school, and he was often under disciplinary actions, even spending some time in a juvenile detention center. Partway through high school, Parkey started thinking about his future and decided it was time to get his life on track. That's when he discovered boxing. He quickly fell in love.

Parkey started boxing after trying out for the football team at Warren G. Harding High School in Warren and ending up on the bench. He excelled at the sport and won the Warren Golden Gloves for his weight class in 1980 and 1981. Around that time, finding a more stable outlook with the outlet competitive boxing provided, Parkey started discussing his post-high school plans with family members. He was considering enlisting in the military but wasn't sure which branch to join. Several of his family members recommended the U.S. Air Force, so he met with a recruiter and signed up in February of 1981.

"I didn't really know what I was going into," said Parkey. "I just took the test and they said I qualified for maintenance. I was really just thinking about getting away and seeing some new places."

As a young Airman, Parkey began his Air Force journey on active duty at Edwards Air Force Base, California, where he worked on F-111 Aardvarks. He spent ten years on active duty, including some time at a Royal Air Force base in England. He kept up his boxing career by fighting on the USA Boxing Team and the Air Force Boxing Team. After ten years on active duty, Parkey separated and moved back to Warren, taking a job at a local company and joining the 910th Tactical Airlift Group, which would soon be designated the 910th AW, as a C-130 mechanic to support his young family in 1991.

Shortly after Parkey joined the 910th, the Wing expanded from eight C-130 aircraft to 16, providing him the opportunity to join the full-time staff at YARS as an Air Reserve Technician. He has worked here as an aircraft maintainer for 26 years. When he began his Reserve career here, Parkey was the first full-time African-American aircraft maintainer at the unit and remains so today.

Parkey joined the 910th AW Honor Guard that same year and has since volunteered his time to represent the U.S. Air Force at hundreds of community events and installation ceremonies and to honor fallen veterans and Service members by providing military honors at funerals.

Maj. Scott Allen was the Officer in Charge of the Honor Guard during much of Parkey's tenure.

"As one of the Base Honor Guard's longest-serving members, Master Sgt. Les Parkey is the epitome of service before self," said Allen. "He consistently puts the mission ahead of himself and makes sure everyone is taken care of during any honor guard detail. I have counted Les as a friend for more than 13 years, and in my humble opinion, there is no one more deserving of this (TCAAAA) award."

Being a native of Warren, Parkey constantly looks for ways to exemplify the Air Force value of service before self in his community. With an emphasis on mentoring young people who might be in similar situations to what he experienced in his childhood, Parkey coaches several community youth sports teams including basketball, football and boxing. He's also a member of King Solomon Lodge #87 in Warren and recently began volunteering as a youth mentor with Inspiring Minds, which runs K-12 after school programs for area students. These service-oriented activities, along with his Air Force and Air Force Reserve service, all contributed to TCAAAA's decision to induct Parkey into their Hall of Fame.

After 37 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, Parkey's career is winding down, and he's looking toward an August retirement. He says the people have always been his favorite part of military service, and he's made friendships all over the world.

"The crew you're with make all the difference," said Parkey, referencing the deployments he's completed as a Reserve Citizen Airman with the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "They become like friends and family to you."

Despite his pending retirement, Parkey has no plans to leave his 910th family behind.

"I live close, so I'll still be around to see everyone," said Parkey.

Once he hangs his Air Force hat, Parkey has a dream he'd like to pursue: opening a boxing gym in his hometown so that he can continue to coach young people in the sport he loves. He hopes to help other young kids from the area find an outlet and gain a better sense of direction for their future. He may even encourage some of them to consider a career with the Air Force Reserve.

According to their website, the TCAAAA was founded in 1985 with a multipronged mission that includes promoting culture and heritage, hosting events to lessen neighborhood tensions and bolstering education by providing scholarships for Trumbull County student residents.

"I was really just thinking about getting away and seeing some new places."

"As one of the Base Honor Guard's longest-serving members, Master Sgt. Les Parkey is the epitome of service before self. He consistently puts the mission ahead of himself and makes sure everyone is taken care of during any honor guard detail."

"The crew you're with make all the difference. They become like friends and family to you."



22nd AIR FORCE COMMANDER VISITS 910th

Story/photos by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

Maj. Gen. Craig L. La Fave, commander of the 22nd Air Force, talks to the 910th Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen during a Youngstown Air Reserve Station all call in a C-130H Hercules aircraft hangar on June 2.

Maj. Gen. Craig L. La Fave looks at a feed line connector cast from a 3-D printed mold for the 910th Airlift Wing's aerial spray systems in aerial spray maintenance at Youngstown Air Reserve Station June 2.



A huge American flag hangs behind a stage in a C-130H Hercules aircraft hangar, here.

A crowd of Reserve Citizen Airmen stands in wait for the start of a 910th all call, a mass assembly of installation personnel.

A familiar engine sound intensifies as the hangar doors open to reveal a C-130 displaying a two star plaque, parking just outside the threshold of the hangar.

As the engines slow and the propellers stop, the reason for the plaque is revealed when the commander of the 22nd Air Force, Maj. Gen. Craig L. La Fave disembarks the aircraft.

Before arriving at the hangar, La Fave toured Youngstown Air Reserve Station, seeing how the 910th AW continues to provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force. La Fave was briefed on the 910th aerial spray mission, the Department of Defense's only large-area fixed-wing spray capability, and shown the aerial spray systems used by the unit's specially-modified C-130 fleet. The general saw how the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron keeps the C-130 fleet's engines running at peak performance and how the 910th Maintenance Squadron Fabrication Shop utilizes its 3-D printing capabilities.

La Fave then participated in an aerial spray demonstration that finished with a C-130 parked in front of the majority of YARS's Reserve Citizen Airmen before the all call.

During the all call, La Fave spoke highly of the 910th AW.

"This is a hidden gem," said La Fave. "Wonderful people, an awesome mission... your airplanes look brand new, your buildings look brand new, you got great leadership... you got it all going on here."

On the second day of the Unit Training Assembly, the Reserve Citizen Airmen saw Maj. Gen. La Fave first thing as he assisted the 910th Security Forces Squadron in checking ID cards at YARS's front gate.

La Fave visited the new small arms facility being built, 910th Communications Squadron for a cyber mission defense demo and 910th Medical Squadron for medical briefs before going to the Community Activity Center where he helped the 910th Force Support Squadron serve 910th AW Reserve Citizen Airmen lunch.

La Fave ended his visit with the 910th AW leadership in the command section of the 910th AW headquarters building.

Col. Dan Sarachene is the commander of the 910th Airlift Wing.

"We're very proud of the people, mission and installation we have at YARS, and it's always an honor to show it off to those in our chain of command," said Sarachene. "Maj. Gen. La Fave visiting the 910th boosts our Airmen's morale and helps us feel even more connected to the total force."

FIRING RANGE

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Story/photos by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer



The 910th Airlift Wing cut the ribbon to its new Combat Arms Training and Maintenance firing range July 27 at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

"Winston Churchill once said, and I share his remarks, 'my tastes are simple, I'm easily satisfied with the best,'" said Col. Dan Sarachene, the commander of the 910th AW. "A Reserve Citizen Airman, for that matter, the military in large, deserve the best training, the best equipment and the best leadership this country has to offer to implement our national defense strategy and protect freedom for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The state-of-the-art firing range is designed to enhance the mission capability of the 910th Security Forces Squadron and presents the potential for training opportunities with YARS's local community law enforcement partner agencies.

"The mission of the 910th Airlift Wing is to provide a current, qualified, mission-ready force so the United States Air Force can Fly, Fight and Win, because losing is not an option," said Sarachene. "This range will provide the best available training to our Airmen, and with that I am satisfied."

The official party members who cut the ribbon were: John Salley, the chief of strategy for the readiness and force development division, Directorate of Security Forces, Headquarters Air Force; Rep. Jim Renacci; Rep. Bill Johnson; Rep. Tim Ryan; Sen. Rob Portman; Col. Dan Sarachene; Col. Thomas White, legislative liaison, HQ Air Force, Secretary of the Air Force; Col. Donald Wren, the commander of the 910th Mission Support Group; retired Col. James Dignan, the president and CEO for the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber and former 910th AW commander; Edward Smuke, the 910th AW base civil engineer; Maj. Nicholas Megeysi, operations officer for the 910th Security Forces Squadron and Mike Coates Sr., the firing range general contractor with Coates Construction.

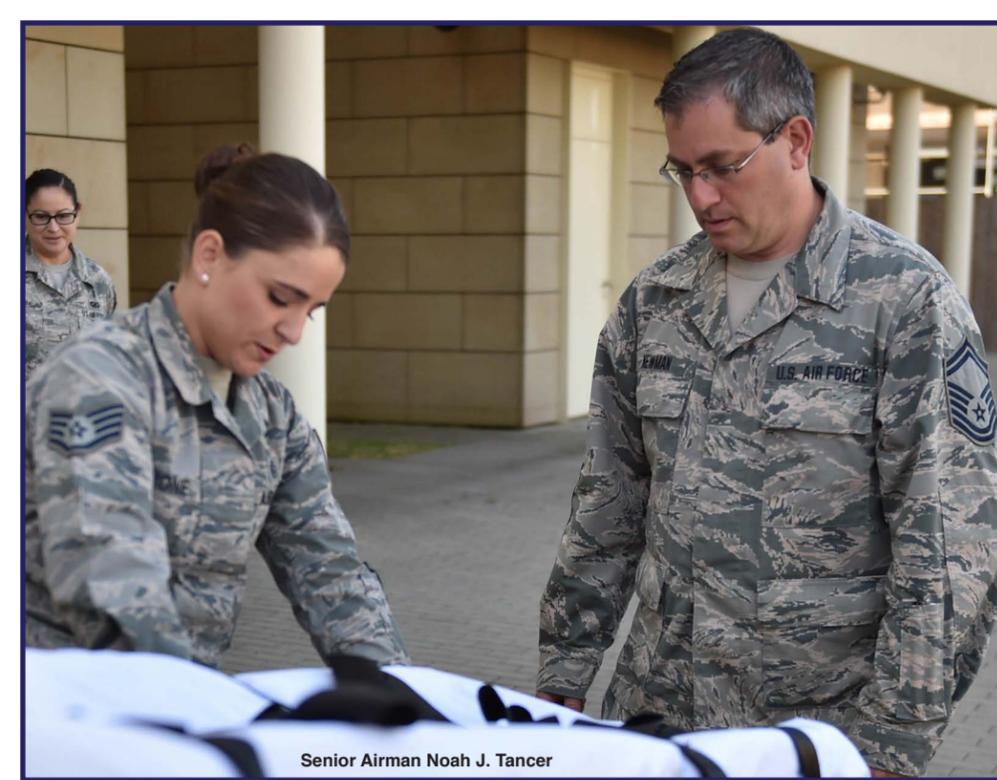
Many other invited guests, including representatives from Army Corps of Engineers, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Col. Thomas "Wes" White, former 910th Security Forces Squadron commander, points out features of the 910th Airlift Wing's new Combat Arms Training and Maintenance firing range to Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel, July 27, 2018.

Local media outlets interview Col. Dan Sarachene, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, at the Community Activity Center at Youngstown Air Reserve Station July 27, 2018, about YARS's new Combat Arms Training and Maintenance firing range.





Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

Staff Sgt. Chelsea Trione, an ambulance services shift leader from the 52nd Medical Operations Squadron, instructs Senior Master Sgt. Jason Newman, the NCO in charge of medical readiness with the 910th Medical Squadron, on retrieving and replacing a gurney from an ambulance.

(Top and bottom right) Senior Master Sgt. Jason Newman, the NCO in charge of medical readiness with the 910th Medical Squadron, prepares an immunization for an Airman in the clinic at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, July 16, 2018. Newman received immunization augmentation training while at Spangdahlem in order to better assist the needs of the Airmen back home at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.



Airman 1st Class Zoe M. Wockenfuss

MDS RECEIVES INVALUABLE TRAINING AT SPANGDAHLEM

Story by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany—

Seven Airmen from the 910th Medical Squadron, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, went to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, to supplement their active duty counterparts and receive training, July 5-19, 2018. The 15-day annual tour provided the Reserve Citizen Airmen invaluable insight and aided them in remaining current and qualified within their medical career fields.

Chief Master Sgt. Brian Marquardt, the superintendent of the 910th Medical Squadron, said the goal during those 15 days was to receive training for a variety of Comprehensive Medical Requirement Program readiness skills such as suturing, immunizations and surgical procedures that must be met every two years in order to remain qualified.

“For several years, Air Force Reserve medical units were restricted from going overseas on annual tour by a policy letter and conducted much of that training at their home installations,” said Marquardt.

The last time the 910th MDS attended an outside continental U.S. AT was in 2009 during a Medical Readiness Training Exercise in the Dominican Republic where the 910th’s Airmen provided medical care to more than 10,000 Dominican citizens over the course of two weeks.

As of last year, the overseas annual tour

restriction was lifted and the 910th MDS jumped at the opportunity recognizing that there was much to gain from the experience. A prime example being Senior Airman Briseida Restrepo, a health services management technician with the 910th MDS. Having previously completed her five-level, Restrepo decided to use her two weeks abroad to get ahead of the game. She arrived in Germany with the intent to completely fulfill all 44 of her career field’s seven-level tasks. Now, within three years of joining the Reserve and spending two weeks in Spangdahlem, she has done just that.

“Everything has been signed off,” said Restrepo. “It’s important to make a list of what you want to get done. To know that list and know specifically what you need to learn. Just be prepared to learn everything you can, two weeks can go quick so you need to focus your time.”

Restrepo also gained first-hand experience in active duty systems and software that aren’t available in Youngstown’s medical unit like Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA) and the Composite Health Care System (CHCS).

“I learned about them in tech school but I never used them in Youngstown,” said Restrepo. “When we get deployed we are expected to know how to do the job as we were taught in tech school, even though it’s not applied at our unit. At Spangdahlem I got that

experience.”

As a YARS 4A0X1 health services management technician, Reserve Citizen Airmen like Restrepo find themselves operating in three sections of the medical clinic; however, while at Spangdahlem’s active duty clinic, Restrepo found her career field operated in several areas of the building.

“4A’s are everywhere,” said Restrepo. “Everybody here has been really great. I’ve been through every section, and they all have taken the time to teach me things, to let me do the jobs they do every single day as professionals. Getting in there and letting me check patients in and use their systems has been a great experience and shows me just how important my career is in a hospital.”

Along with having the capability to train in their Air Force Specialty Code, the Reserve Citizen Airmen were also given the freedom to explore Europe and its culture. Airmen from the 910th Medical Squadron visited places like the cities of Cochem and Trier in Germany as well as Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

“We loved the opportunity working with the 910th,” said Senior Master Sgt. Tameka Coates, the superintendent for the 52nd Medical support Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base. “We gave the 910th the chance to sign off many of their core readiness skills verification which allows them to remain current within their career field.”

910th AIRMEN

HELP SUPPORT THE FALLEN

By Tech. Sgt. Laura Beckley, 436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del.—

According to the Air Force Personnel Center and diversity.defense.gov, there are approximately 258,000 enlisted Airmen serving on active duty and nearly 55,000 serving on reserve status.

Reservists are sometimes referred as “Weekend Warriors,” an adage developed from their one weekend a month, two weeks a year duty schedule.

For Staff Sgt. Sarah Miles, a reservist assigned to the 910th Force Support Squadron, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, that sentiment is all too familiar.

“Other active duty bases—if I go on annual tour somewhere—we get pushed to the side because we are reservists and they’re like, ‘oh, you’re just part time,’” Miles said. “They don’t look at us the same.”

This was hardly the case for Miles and her team of 17 services Airmen when they were activated to support Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations at Dover AFB, a mission dedicated to the dignified and honorable return of fallen service

members as well as family care and support.

Miles said she doesn’t feel like a part-timer at AFMAO.

During the Youngstown team’s six-month deployment one of their many responsibilities was to perform as the carry team during some dignified transfers, a solemn movement conducted upon the arrival of remains to Dover AFB.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Georgette Dieckmann, an active-duty AFMAO superintendent, the increasing support by Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard comes after careful consideration regarding current manpower requirements for active-duty bases as well as the stress of repetitive deployments.

“We started looking at the effects it was having on units, to task over and over again for this mission,” Dieckmann said. “While it’s a very honorable mission, it can be very difficult.”

She said that was the case particularly with force support squadrons at bases like Dover and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, who were primarily supporting the mission and are maintaining other taskings for contingency

Staff Sgt. Sarah Miles, a reservist assigned to the 910th Force Support Squadron, calls out commands during dignified transfer training for Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Aug. 23, 2018, at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

requirements.

“It was a heavy burden to bear,” said Dieckmann.

This is where Air Force Reservists like Miles and her team come in. They not only carry the weight of the mission but also the ideals of a grateful nation.

“Before, it was just Dover and McGuire coming here every six months,” Miles affirmed. “Now they have Charleston, McChord and Youngstown. Now, every few years we’ll be coming here on a rotation. I hope I get to come back here as many times as I can because it’s honorable.”

It’s that sense of duty and commitment to mission that Miles and Dieckmann agree binds the AFMAO team together regardless of military branch or component.

“There is no, ‘you’re a reservist, you’re guard, you’re active duty,’” Dieckmann said. “Our mission set and our vision behind what we do every single day doesn’t allow for that. We’re all AFMAO Airmen and we’re all here to operate with dignity, honor and respect, and care, service and support of our family members of the fallen.”

76er SKILLS CHALLENGE

Story and photos by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

The 76th Aerial Port Squadron hosted their annual 76er Skills Challenge, August 4-5, inside and outside the 76th APS building at YARS.

Five teams competed in six timed challenges, a hundred question test, a pallet build up, a 10K forklift obstacle course, a 25K Halverson cargo loading vehicle obstacle course, a team physical training course and a simulated Engine Running Onload/Offload of a C-130H Hercules.

Four of the five "Port Dawg" teams were made up of Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's 76th APS. The fifth team was made up of Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 911th Airlift Wing's 32nd Aerial Port Squadron, based at Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania.

Each team won at least one challenge, and there seemed to be a correlation between what each team leaders' jobs are and the events their team won.

Team 1 led by Tech. Sgt. Dane Morningstar, a cargo services flight supervisor with the 76th APS, won the pallet build up. Team 4 placed second in the event and Team 2 placed third.

Team 2 led by Tech. Sgt. Samuel Holbrook, a passenger services flight supervisor with the 76th APS, won the team PT course by one second. Team 1 placed second in the course and Team 4 place third

Team 3 led by Tech. Sgt. Link Maynard, a special handling section representative with the 76th APS, won the ERO. Team 2 placed second in the event and Team 5 placed third, with only 37 seconds separation.

Team 4 led by Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Innot, a fleet services section supervisor with the 76th APS, won the 10K forklift obstacle course and 25k Halverson obstacle course. In the forklift course Team 5 placed second and Team 3 placed third. In the Halverson course, Team 1 placed second and Team 3 placed third.

Team 5, PARS's 32nd APS, won the hundred question test. Team 2 placed second in the event and Team 4 placed third.

After all the scores were added up, there was only a 54 point difference between first place and last. Team 5 took third, Team 4 took second, and Team 1 took first.

"If I may, that's two years in a row for me," said Morningstar, smiling ear-to-ear, holding back laughter. "Draft me next year."

After squadron leadership shared congratulatory words with the participating Airmen, the 76er Skills Challenge came to an end with a barbecue.



Team 3 participates in the hundred-question test portion of the 76er Skills Challenge Aug. 3, 2018.



Team 1 pulls a Polaris with chains during the team physical training portion of the 76er Skills Challenge Aug. 4, 2018.



Team 4 chains down a vehicle in the back of a C-130H Hercules as part of the ERO portion of the 76er Skills Challenge Aug. 4, 2018.

FLYERS TAKE THE PLUNGE FOR WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

HUBBARD, Ohio --

Twenty Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Operations Group participated in water survival training at the Hubbard Community Pool, Sept. 9, 2018. Every 36 months, aircrews are required to receive refresher training

so they are able to survive during emergency situations in open water.

Tech. Sgt. Zach Angel, a survival, evasion, resistance and escape specialist from 910th Operations Support Squadron, said that the participants received a refresher on a variety of

skills that will aid them in emergency situations while in open water.

The Airmen learned how to escape from a parachute canopy while underwater, release their parachute while being dragged, how to survive in a raft and proper use of survival gear.

Tech. Sgt. Zach Angel, a SERE specialist with the 910th Operations Support Squadron, instructs Reserve Citizen Airmen on how to escape their parachutes during water survival training at Hubbard Community Pool.



Senior Airman Brian Phillippi, an air crew flight equipment technician from the 910th Operations Support Squadron, inflates an LPU-10P life preserver unit for water survival training.



Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 757th Airlift Squadron mount a 20-man raft as a team during water survival training at Hubbard Community Pool.



Senior Airman Ethan Sanchez, a loadmaster with the 757th Airlift Squadron, is pulled through the water during a water survival training at Hubbard Community Pool.



A Reserve Citizen Airman from the 757th Airlift Squadron feels his way out of a parachute during water survival training at Hubbard Community Pool.

Final challenge of Tac Week held at Camp Ravenna

Story/photos by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

Five Youngstown Air Reserve Station C-130H Hercules aircraft, a Maxwell Air Force Base C-130 and a Dobbins Air Reserve Base C-130 took part in an elephant crawl to YARS's runway on August 10.

After takeoff, DARB's C-130 left formation to fly home, YARS's five aircraft and MAFB's one continued in formation to Camp Ravenna's drop zone.

YARS, DARB and MAFB had been competing all week in Tac Week, a series of challenges meant for training. The last Tac Week challenge was a six-ship tactical airdrop challenge to see which C-130 could get its Actual Heavy or High-Velocity Container Delivery System airdrop closest to the Point of Impact.

910th Airlift Wing's 757th Airlift Squadron aircraft 107 won the first round getting their Actual HE airdrop closest to the PI.

757th AS's flagship, aircraft 022, won the second round, getting their HVCDS airdrop the closest.

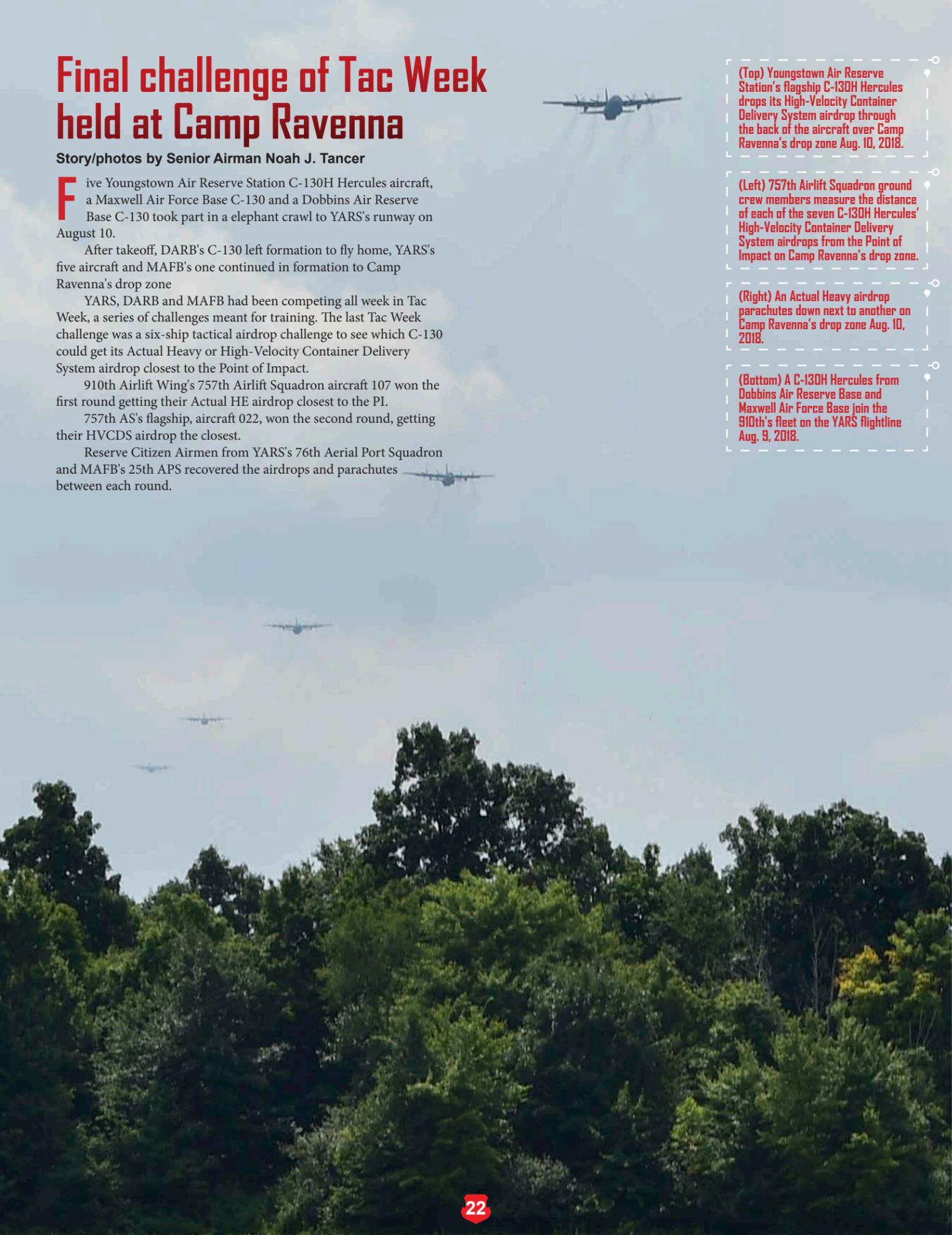
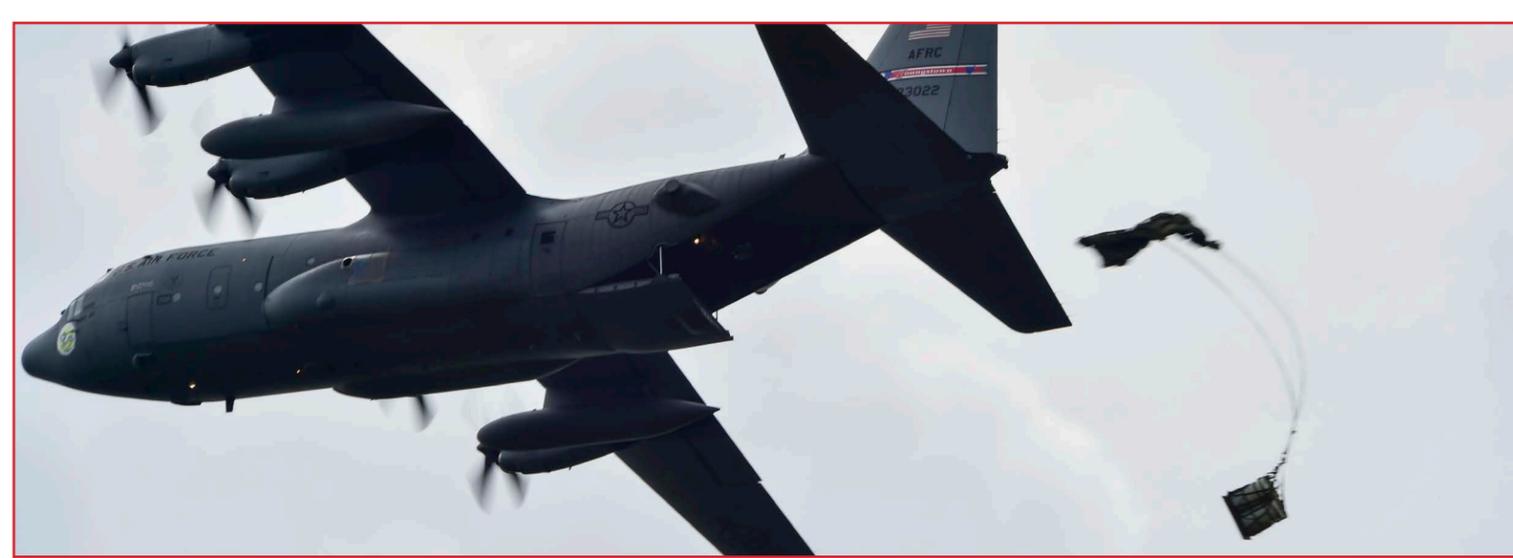
Reserve Citizen Airmen from YARS's 76th Aerial Port Squadron and MAFB's 25th APS recovered the airdrops and parachutes between each round.

(Top) Youngstown Air Reserve Station's flagship C-130H Hercules drops its High-Velocity Container Delivery System airdrop through the back of the aircraft over Camp Ravenna's drop zone Aug. 10, 2018.

(Left) 757th Airlift Squadron ground crew members measure the distance of each of the seven C-130H Hercules' High-Velocity Container Delivery System airdrops from the Point of Impact on Camp Ravenna's drop zone.

(Right) An Actual Heavy airdrop parachutes down next to another on Camp Ravenna's drop zone Aug. 10, 2018.

(Bottom) A C-130H Hercules from Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Maxwell Air Force Base join the 910th's fleet on the YARS flightline Aug. 9, 2018.



AIRMEN ABROAD

1.) Airman 1st Class Branton Olson, a travel management helper with to the 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron, measures the dimensions of an outgoing package July 12, 2018, on Spangdahlem Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

2.) Master Sgt. Marco Gonzalez, the superintendent of the 910th Mission Support Group, and Staff Sgt. Christina Gonzalez, a command support staff technician with the 910th Mission Support Group, sort mail and parcels at the post office at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, July 16, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

3.) Airman 1st Class Sarah Gruber, a broadcast journalist assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, adjusts the settings on her video camera July 12, 2018, at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

4.) Chaplain (Maj.) David Black, assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, leads a prayer on July 12, 2018, on Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. Black provided spiritual care for 910th AW Reserve Citizen Airmen at SAB and Ramstein Air Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

5.) Tech. Sgt. Michael Wyne (left), a 910th Airlift Wing career advisor in training, and Master Sgt. Brian Starr (right), the career advisor for the 910th Mission Support Group, speak with Master Sgt. Billy Blair, an Air Force Reserve recruiter assigned to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, July 18, 2018, on SAB. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

6.) Staff Sgt. David Springsteen, a pavements and construction helper from the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron, uses a compactor to repair Spangdahlem Air Base's flightline, July 12, 2018. After an F-16 Fighting Falcon tore asphalt from the flightline, Springsteen aided Spangdahlem's CES to have the flightline repaired within an hour. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

7.) Staff Sgt. Bryan Harris, a structural helper assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron, trains with a plasma torch July 16, 2018, at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. During his temporary duty, Harris assisted SAB's CES around their base and attained training on tools not commonly used at Youngstown Air Reserve Station. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

8.) Airmen from Spangdahlem Air Base's 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron use a torch to make asphalt malleable while Staff Sgt. David Springsteen, a pavements and construction helper from the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron, prepares a compactor on the Spangdahlem flightline, July 12, 2018. Springsteen was one of more than 40 Youngstown Air Reserve Station Airmen to attend a temporary duty assignment to Spangdahlem Air Base during their annual tour. These Reserve Citizen Airmen trained every day to develop and validate the skills necessary to augment their active duty counterparts. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

9.) Master Sgt. Michael Riggenbach, occupational safety technician assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, operates a Spangdahlem Air Base "Skid Monster" July 10, 2018, on SAB, Germany. While at SAB, Riggenbach assisted with vehicle safety classes. Part of the class was operating a vehicle meant to mimic a car skidding on ice. All Airmen 26 years old or under are required to take the vehicle safety class and "Skid Monster" operation course when stationed on SAB. The 910th AW Reserve Citizen Airmen on annual tour in Germany trained with their active duty counterparts and filled critical shortages for the active duty during their peak leave period. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

10.) Senior Master Sgt. Jason Newman, the noncommissioned officer in charge of medical readiness assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron, learns about the different pieces of equipment available in an ambulance July 18, 2018, on Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

11.) Senior Airman Amber Rice, with the 910th Airlift Wing finance office, assists a customer at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany July 7, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

12.) Lt. Col. Robert Wengert, the commander of the 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron, tests the controls of a motor grader July 12, 2018, on the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron's yard, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. Wengert was in charge of the 910th Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airmen who spent annual training in Germany. Wengert embodied his own rule, "work hard, play hard" by dusting off his old enlisted "Dirt Boy" training and hopping in a motor grader to level off a beaten up path on the 52nd CES yard. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)





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UPDATED TAIL FLASH LANDS ON YARS' HERCS

The block Y of Youngstown State University's logo pays homage to Youngstown Air Reserve Station's heritage in the Valley and outstanding community support.



Youngstown

"Youngstown" is set in a serif font, paying homage to the typeface of previous iterations of the tailflash.

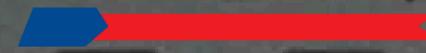


A silhouette of the state of Ohio pays tribute to YARS' rich heritage in the Buckeye State. The silhouette is set in Air Force blue.



Borrowed from the state of Ohio's flag, the only non-rectangular state flag in the union, the pennant section pays homage to YARS' host state.

The red and blue fields represent the 910th's flying squadron, the 757th Airlift Squadron, while paying homage to the now inactivated 773rd Airlift Squadron.



A star on the silhouette of Ohio denotes the location of Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Northeast Ohio, near Warren and Youngstown.



The 910th Airlift Wing unveiled the fleet's new C-130H Hercules tail flash along with a new nose art honoring the 75th anniversary of the 757th Airlift Squadron here, May 3, 2018.

The old tail flash design represented the 910th AW's original two C-130 squadrons, the 773rd AS, the "red" squadron, and the 757th AS, the "blue" squadron. Following the inactivation of the 773rd AS in 2014, Col. Dan Sarachene, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, thought it was time for a change.

"The inspiration for changing our tail flash first came to me after seeing a social media posting describing the elements of a 'Fin Flash,'" said Sarachene. "We no longer had two C-130 squadrons."

During several meetings and casual conversations within the public affairs office, several different ideas for the tail flash floated around. One that kept coming up was to tie the new design into the Mahoning Valley.

"The addition of the Ohio state flag, the state map icon with the star depicting YARS's location and of course Youngstown spelled out with the

Youngstown State University 'Y', clearly identifies where we are along with who we are, as we show our mission presence around the world," said Sarachene. "We're proud to be a part of the Mahoning Valley, a defense community, and hope the latest 'Fin Flash' design represents where we come from and the support we garner."

The designer who brought Col. Sarachene's idea for the new tail flash to life is Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., the superintendent for the 910th AW public affairs office. Barko graduated YSU in 1993 with bachelor's degree in graphic design.

"I'm proud to have been part of creating a long-lasting symbol of Youngstown Air Reserve Station's support of the local community," said Barko. "It is really cool to be able to use my art degree to create this new tail flash for the 910th, our valley's military unit."

910th AW personnel have already applied the new tail flash to two of the C-130H Hercules. The rest of the fleet will receive the new tail flash soon.



Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

Need to Know

FY19 A UTAs

2019	January	12-13
2019	February	9-10
2019	March	9-10
2019	April	6-7
2019	May	4-5
2019	June	8-9
2019	July	13-14
2019	August	10-11
2019	September	21-22

FY19 B UTAs

2019	January	26-27
2019	February	23-24
2019	March	23-24
2019	April	None
2019	May	18-19
2019	June	22-23
2019	July	27-28
2019	August	24-25
2019	September	None

For ALRS reservations:
Call 330-609-1923

SAPR & Behavioral Health Resources

DoD
Safe Helpline
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community

safehelpline.org | 877-995-5247

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

The Youngstown Air Reserve Station Psychological Health office offers confidential counseling and referral services for the 910th Airlift Wing and their families, working with depression, anxiety, stress, divorce, relationships, parenting, crises, substance abuse, child/adolescent behavioral issues, couples counseling, deployment, work/life balance and more.

Contact Information:

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



SEE THE 910th IN ACTION

For a deeper perspective on the 910th Airlift Wing, head to the unit's official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/youngstownars. Check out the thumbnails and descriptions below for an idea of what you'll find there.



ALPHA WARRIOR INSPIRES AIRMAN FITNESS

The Alpha Warrior program brings obstacle-based fitness apparatuses to Air Force bases to host friendly competitions and inspire Airmen fitness. Alpha Warrior installed a permanent Battle Rig fitness apparatus and hosted a competition here, Nov. 4, 2018.



910TH TRAINS AND SERVES IN SPANGDAHLEM

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Airlift Wing went to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, to assist their active duty counterparts and receive training from July 6-19, 2018.



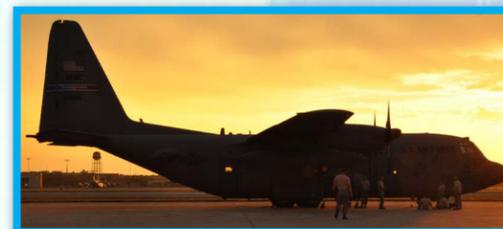
THE HIGH CALLING

The 910th Airlift Wing has a rich history of answering the high call to serve our nation. This video features both historic and modern footage of the unit, backed by historic audio of famous speeches highlighting the values of freedom and service.



YOUNGSTOWN LAUNCHES 2018 AERIAL SPRAY SEASON

The 910th Airlift Wing launched its 2018 spray season Mar. 5-16, 2018, at the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) near Hill Air Force Base, Utah.



HURRICANE HARVEY AERIAL SPRAY

The 910th Airlift Wing provided its unique aerial-spray capability, beginning Sept. 8, 2017, to eliminate pest insects and reduce the possible spread of disease in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

YouTube /youngstownars



Nose art incorporating Milton Caniff's original illustration by Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

Nose art commemorating the 75th anniversary of the 757th Airlift Squadron was installed on a 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft this year. The artwork is a replication of an illustration created by famed cartoonist Milton Caniff, the artist behind long-time newspaper comics such as 'Terry and the Pirates' and 'Steve Canyon.' Caniff designed the squadron's original logo.

In 1958, the 757th Troop Carrier Squadron relocated to Youngstown from Byrd

Field, Virginia. Many of the members of the 757th had previously served with the 26th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, known as the 'Tigers,' which was an Air Force reserve flying unit previously based at Youngstown. The 757th had anticipated their mission would be flying fighters. When the airmen found out that their mission would be carrying troops in C-119 Flying Boxcars instead, they were disappointed and adopted the name the 'Blue Tigers.' The name and logo are still in use.



/youngstownars



@910AW



/youngstownars



@910AW

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

Trust. Teamwork. Leadership.