AIRSTREAM ALMANAC

2020

CONTINENTAL AIR COMMAND

910TH AIRLIFT WING

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

CELEBRATING THE 60-YEAR HERITAGE OF YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION

AIRSTREAM MAGAZINE

Official almanac of the 910th Airlift Wing 2020 - Vol. 7

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COMMANDER

Col. Joe Janik

NOTICES

The 2020 Airstream Almanac is the seventh annual almanac of the 910th Airlift Wing, continuing the more than 60-year tradition of the base magazine. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Air Force.

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ON THE COVER: Established in 1955 to provide military protection to the northern United States as the active duty's Youngstown Air Force Base, the 910th Airlift Wing's home installation has been a fixture in the Mahoning Valley for 65 years. In 1960, control of the installation was transferred to Continental Air Command, the predecessor of today's Air Force Reserve Command, and was renamed Youngstown Air Reserve Base.

Between 1970 and 1979, YARB hosted several different primary missions and airframes. In 1980, YARB again changed missions, this time to tactical airlift, and received its first C-130 Hercules aircraft. In 1992, the Department of Defense's only large-area fixed-wing aerial spray mission was moved to Youngstown. In 1994, the host unit was redesignated as the 910th Airlift Wing and the installation was renamed Youngstown Air Reserve Station. In 2020, YARS celebrated 60 years of the Air Force Reserve host presence and 40 years of the C-130 Hercules tactical airlift mission at northeast Ohio's only Air Force Reserve installation. The 2020 Airstream Almanac's cover honors this heritage. (U.S. Air Force illustration/Mr. Eric M. White)

IN THE BACKGROUND: A C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron taxis on the flightline after returning from an aerial spray mission on Sept. 22, 2020, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. (Senior Airman Christina Russo)

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Youngstown

910th AIRLIFT WING MISSION STATEMENT

Combat ready NOW... for tomorrow's fight!

VISION STATEMENT

Maximize our combat capabilities... Delivering decisive tactical airlift, aerial spray and agile combat support!

PRIORITIES

1. Support and encourage the readiness, professional development, and personal resilience of ALL 910th Airmen
2. Ensure the 910th is ready to execute its primary mission in-garrison or supporting Air Expeditionary Forces; at any time
3. Take calculated risk in the stewardship of scarce resources to ensure effective and efficient mission accomplishment

910th Airlift Wing Leadership

Col. Joe Janik
910th Airlift Wing
Commander

Col. Casey Dodds
910th Airlift Wing
Vice Commander

Chief Master Sgt.
Chris Williams
910th Command Chief

Lt. Col. Scott Lawson
910th Operations Group
Commander

Lt. Col. Joe Winchester
910th Maintenance
Group Commander

Col. Greg Meyer
910th Mission Support
Group Commander

Air Force Social Media Guidance for Airmen

Social media can be an excellent tool for communication and connection, and the Air Force actively engages in social media to help tell the Air Force story. Social media can also pose a risk to operational and personal security. Every Airman should be aware of and apply the following guidelines from Air Force Public Affairs when engaging in social media.

In general, the Air Force views social media sites positively and respects your rights as Americans to use them to express yourself. However, by the nature of your profession, you are always on the record and must represent our core values. Air Force Instruction 1-1 Air Force Standards chapter 2 includes information on how Airmen should conduct themselves on social networking websites. Here are a few things to remember when communicating online via social media as an Airman:

- You are personally responsible for what you say and post on social networking services and any other medium.
- Consider how a post can be interpreted by the public.
- Be cautious about crossing the line between funny and distasteful.
- If you have doubts about whether you should post something, err on the side of caution and do not post.
- If the post in question concerns the Air Force, discuss the proposed post with your supervisor or your local public affairs office.
- Maintain appropriate communication and conduct with officer and enlisted personnel, peers, superiors and subordinates (to include civilian superiors and subordinates).

For Eagle's Nest lodging reservations:

Call 330-609-1268 and press "0"

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

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION RESPONSE PROGRAM

Mental Health Awareness

Youngstown Air Reserve Station Snapshot

A summary of facts and figures

910th Airlift Wing Mission

Combat ready NOW... For tomorrow's fight!

910th Airlift Wing Vision

Maximize our combat capabilities... Delivering decisive tactical airlift, aerial spray and agile combat support!

Key Leadership

910th Airlift Wing

Commander: Col. Joe Janik
Vice Commander: Col. Casey Dodds
Command Chief: Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams
Operations Group Commander: Lt. Col. Scott Lawson
Maintenance Group Commander: Lt. Col. Joseph Winchester
Mission Support Group Commander: Col. Greg Meyer
Medical Squadron Commander: Col. Colleen Kelley

Detachment 3 • Maintenance Company Combat Logistics Battalion 453 • USMCR

Inspector/Instructor: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Douglas Cardwell

Economic Impact FY 20: $137.3 mil

Annual Payroll:

Military	$49,649,000
Appropriated Civilian	$46,172,000
NAF Civilians and Private Business	$7,278,000
Total	**$103,099,000**

Military Expenditures on Station

Construction	$3,833,000
Local Expenditures	$17,261,000
Retail Portion/Non-Local Goods & Service	$233,000
Total	**$21,377,000**

Indirect Effects

Local Jobs Created	2465
Dollar Value	$22,272,000

Federal Assets

Acreage

YARS Owned	230 acres
YARS Leased	91 acres
Total	321 acres

Buildings and Aircraft

Total AF Buildings (Average Building Age - 30 years)	71
Plant Replacement Value	$797,603,310
Aircraft Value (C-130H - Approx. $30M ea. x 8)	$240,000,000
Total	**$1 Billion+**

YARS Personnel

910th Airlift Wing

Military: Traditional Reservists, Air Reserve Technicians (military capacity), Active Duty, Active Guard Reserve	1440
Civil Servants (including ART civilian role)	394
NAF/AAFES/Credit Union	47
Contractors	37
Total	**1918**
Marines	
Active Duty, Traditional Reservists	96
Defense Logisitics Agency	
DLA Specialists	4
Federal Aviation Administration	
Air Traffic Control Tower Staff	25
Total YARS Manning	**2043**

Who are we? Reserve Citizen Airmen...

- ARTs make up nearly half of the 910th's full time workforce and are Department of Defense civil servants with an associated Air Force Reserve military position.
- DoD civil servants, or DoD civilians, make up more than half of the wing's full time workforce and are essential to the day-to-day operations at YARS and the military readiness of the 910th.
- AGRs are TRs serving on a short-term federal active duty tour to provide full-time support to the 910th and operations at YARS.
- Contractors make up the remainder of the 910th's full-time force and are responsible for and essential to base operations at YARS.
- TRs make up the bulk of our manpower at YARS. In uniform, TRs work across 15 units in a variety of jobs to accomplish the 910th's mission and vision. When not in uniform, they are students, small business owners, teachers, doctors, police, firefighters, postal workers, skilled trades people and more. They are your neighbors, your co-workers, your friends and quite possibly members of your family. They are among the less than one percent of Americans who volunteer for military duty, serving one weekend a month and at least an additional two weeks a year. They must be ready to deploy anywhere around the world, ready to go in as little as 72 hours.

Aircraft (8 primary aircraft assigned)

6 x C-130H2 - Modified for Modular Aerial Spray System
2 x C-130H2.5 - Modified for Modular Aerial Spray System

Youngstown Air Reserve Station Snapshot
A summary of facts and figures

910th Airlift Wing Tactical Airlift Mission

Tactical Airlift Mission

In wartime, the 910th Airlift Wing is to employ the Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft in combat operations of tactical airlift. These operations include low-level infiltration into a combat environment, where aircrews can deliver personnel and materials by airdrop and air-land techniques.

Tactical Airlift Units, Aircraft and Personnel

The 757th Airlift Squadron's pilots, navigators, flight engineers and loadmasters to conduct tactical airlift missions using the 910th's nine C-130 aircraft. The tactical airlift mission is only possible with the expertise of support personnel.

Recent Tactical Airlift Missions

May 2019 – Sept. 2019: More than 130 members from the 910th Airlift Wing's flying, maintenance and other ground support squadrons deployed to complete airlift operations to various military installations throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations. These 910th Reserve Citizen Airmen and aircraft completed more than 1,719 flying hours. During these missions, they flew 751 combat and combat support sorties and the aircrews moved 4,301 passengers and 41 distinguished visitors, hauled 1,650 pallets of cargo weighing more than 2,487 tons and transported 179 aeromedical patients.

Aerial Spray and Airlift Mission Support

910th Operations Support Squadron deploys mission-ready combat tactics, intelligence, aircrew flight equipment and current operations personnel in support of worldwide DoD wartime, peacetime and humanitarian airlift
910th Maintenance Group, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 910th Maintenance Squadron personnel ensure aircraft are ready to fly

Agile Combat Support

910th Mission Support Group provides overall command and control of installation support services to the 910th
76th Aerial Port Squadron palletizes and loads cargo
910th Civil Engineer Squadron maintain a support engineering force capable of rapid response for world contingency operations
910th Communications Squadron provides cyberspace operations support through command, control, communications and computer services with the primary function of base cyber defense
910th Force Support Squadron leads and supervises support services to the 910th Airlift Wing through the Military Personnel Section, Wing Education & Training and Family Support sections
910th Logistics Readiness Squadron organizes and trains Air Force Reservists in the highly-specialized areas of contingency war plans, fuels operations/distribution, materiel movement and vehicle management
910th Medical Squadron keeps personnel fit for deployment through physicals, immunizations and fitness assessments
910th Security Forces protect the station, personnel and aircraft

910th Airlift Wing Aerial Spray Mission

Aerial Spray Mission

The Department of Defense tasks the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, to maintain the DoD's only large-area fixed-wing aerial spray capability to control disease-carrying insects, pest insects and undesirable vegetation and to disperse oil spills in large bodies of water. Missions may be executed in combat areas, on DoD installations or in response to disasters/emergencies as declared by the President of the United States.

Aerial Spray Unit, Aircraft and Personnel

The 757th Airlift Squadron pilots, navigators, flight engineers, spray operators/loadmasters and entomologists conduct aerial spray missions using eight C-130H aircraft equipped with the Modular Aerial Spray System. These systems are maintained by 910th MXG support personnel assigned to the spray mission. YARS houses one of four EPA-approved Training Centers for DoD Pesticide Applicator Certification serving both the continental U.S. and overseas DoD pest management facilities.

Key Aerial Spray Missions

2005: The destruction and debris resulting from the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita created prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes and filth flies putting the displaced populations and rescue workers at risk of vector-borne illness: Supporting FEMA, treated 2,880,662 acres over Louisiana and Texas culminating in the largest aerial spray mission ever conducted under AFRC.
May 2009: The spray flight performed the industry's largest effective larvicide aerial spray application over Army Corps of Engineers land near Williston, North Dakota. Reductions in larval mosquito populations by over 95 percent in sampled areas were demonstrated.
May – June 2010: The 757th Airlift Squadron conducted aerial spray to aid in neutralizing the Deepwater Horizon oil spill caused by the April 2010 sinking of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico, marking the first real-world application of oil spill dispersants by the 910th Airlift Wing. The 910th Airlift Wing flew 93 sorties covering more than 30,000 acres.
Sept. 2017: The 757th Airlift Squadron performed 28 sorties to treat more than 2.7 million acres in Texas with insecticide in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. This was the first emergency mosquito-control mission performed with night vision goggles.
Oct. 2020: 85 Reserve Citizen Airmen and three C-130s assigned to the 910th deployed to conduct aerial spray operations to treat more than 900,000 acres in southern Louisiana for mosquito control in the aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Col. Joe Janik
910th Airlift Wing Commander

10, 9, 8...ignition, liftoff. Do you know the name of the space capsule launched on Nov. 15, 2020? The crew dutifully named it The Resilience, a fitting name as we close out 2020. We discuss resiliency extensively in the Air Force, but never in our lifetimes has there been a year where our personal resiliency has been put to the test over and over as it has in 2020. All of you are too familiar with the multiple life-altering events this year has brought us. From the COVID-19 pandemic to racial unrest, a contentious election season and the passing of several 910th teammates; this year has made us aware of what is truly important in our lives and what we truly cherish. With the aforementioned items aside, this year has been one where I have been witness to multiple acts of kindness and love. These actions displayed our devotion and dedication that we have for each other in the 910th family.

With the increased level of stress 2020 has brought us, we all need an outlet to ensure we are well-balanced. I equate this to a 3-legged stool. The legs stand for your family time, your Air Force time, and your civilian employment/school time, each one vying for your attention. Now throw a fourth leg into the picture: you. If you are not ready to perform, the other three legs will suffer. We all need an outlet, a way to decompress. For me, I work out, run, read, and watch an occasional 'The Big Bang Theory.' What is your outlet? The 910th is fortunate to have multiple helping hands agencies to facilitate decompressing. They include our: Chaplains, Director of Psychological Health, Violence Prevention Integrator, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Yellow Ribbon, Airmen and Family Readiness, Equal Opportunity, Inspector General, Judge Advocate General, First Sergeants, Key Spouses, and our Exercise Physiologist. These great individuals have one mission; that is to be there for you. Please reach out and utilize their expertise.

Everyone has a story. Through this year of telework, virtual meetings, and physical distancing, we may not have had as many opportunities to be together with all of our 910th members. We are social creatures, needing interaction and storytelling. Remember Tom Hanks' "friend" from the movie, "Cast Away." Stranded on a desert island, he was craving conversation and interaction, so he created "Wilson." Perhaps some of us may think we are on a desert island by ourselves. Trust me when I say, "You. Are. Not. Alone." I ask for all, please engage with your Airmen and each other, not just through these difficult times, but all times. Be there to assist your fellow Airmen in achieving their goals. Know their story.

The one constant throughout the year has been our combat readiness. Even though the world has struggled with the pandemic, our requirement to be combat ready has not faltered. Yes, some organizations throughout the Air Force received waivers for certain requirements at the beginning of the pandemic, but they have since expired. For us, it has been business as usual. We have been expected to maintain our level of readiness and have deployed several 910th members, and we have received our members from deployments.

Through our adjustment to the pandemic, you learned how to operate in and through these difficult times. We initiated an increase in telework, we developed the first telework Unit Training Assembly, and we created the first virtual physical health assessment that AFRC acknowledged as a benchmark program. In August, the 910th participated in a 22nd Air Force exercise named Rally in the Valley. The exercise demonstrated our ability to operate in a contested environment and from several different airfields. In October, we performed flawlessly as the wing executed two operations simultaneously. The first operation involved our readiness assessment, named Steel Dragon, at Alpena, Michigan (that state up north for the Buckeye fans). We "deployed" 225 Airmen to evaluate our Mission Essential Tasks in a contested environment. For our second operation, our unique large-area aerial spray capability was activated to assist with mosquito control in Louisiana. The men and women who took part in this post Hurricane Delta operation were very successful, spraying more than 900,000 acres in two weeks. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort by all of our 910th organizations to successfully deploy and redeploy from these missions.

What does 2021 bring for us? Well, to start, President-elect Joe Biden will be sworn in as our 46th president. A COVID-19 vaccine will be available. As the dust settles from a tumultuous year, we are expected to be just as combat ready as ever.

While we as military members are fortunate enough to put on our uniform every day and serve our nation, we would not be able to do it without the support of our families. Although they may not put on a uniform, they no doubt are the unsung heroes of our military force. Thank you to all of the families of the 910th for your continued support of our members and the Air Force Reserve.

We will continue to further the cause of supporting the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win by being Combat Ready NOW…for tomorrow's fight! Three steadfast principles that will guide us in our mission success are:

#1 – TRUST – I trust you will do your job well and take care of your Airmen. You are empowered to make decisions to get the mission done, and where there is an opportunity for improvement, take it. Do not wait for me.

#2 – DISCIPLINE – Be disciplined to your craft and be the best at what you do. Be highly proficient and take pride in your work and your unit.

#3 – CULTURE – With the first two, we improve upon a culture where we succeed and where you want to improve the unit.

Thank you to all of our Airmen for your service. Airmen with a capital "A" means our Active Guard Reserve members, Air Reserve Technicians, Traditional Reservists, our civilian work force, and our contractors. Each individual brings value to our mission, resulting in widespread evidence of high proficiency, unit pride, and cohesion. By bringing different experiences and perspectives together, this only increases our ability to attract, recruit, develop, and retain our awesome Airmen. I am proud to serve with you. For 2021, be ready, resilient, and postured for success.

Joseph D. Janik

Chief Master Sgt. Chris Williams
910th Airlift Wing Command Chief

A Set-back or Opportunity?

The year numbered 2020 Anno Domini invokes strong emotion with harsh descriptions, and all words are applicable: pandemic, devastation, pain, conflict, loss, hurt, injustice, fear, frustration and more. Upon my activation in mid-March for COVID-19 support, I witnessed first-hand the Youngstown Air Reserve Station stories of success that were later up-channeled to both Air Force Reserve Command and Headquarters Air Force. We challenged you all to think outside of the box, and in everyday 910th Airlift Wing fashion, you all responded with, "What box?" I offer to you the sometimes forgotten chapter of the YARS 2020 story: There was an event just before the February A-UTA that pushed an extremely rare base-closure scenario. It was quite impressive to bear witness to our Crisis Action Team firing on all cylinders within the Emergency Operations Center. All I had to do was sip my coffee and watch the highly-trained professionals—civilian and military alike—manage this situation that now is commonly called The COVID-19 Test Run. This is precisely why we practice. Drills and exercises produce seasoned reactions that rest in muscle memory awaiting to respond. When the rest of Air Force Reserve Command was looking for COVID response answers, Youngstown Air Reserve Station re-opened the Break Glass Binder (in case of emergency) and read from the ink that had just dried. Once again, you all led the charge!

PTS and PTG

We all have felt the negative effects of 2020, and quite frankly may never fully recover. But perhaps recover is the wrong word? What about grow? As American Airmen, we have been educated on Post-Traumatic Stress, but we hear so little about Post-traumatic Growth. To me, PTG is well-connected to resiliency. In trying to maintain crucial life balance, I offer this number sequence: 10-2-5-7. This represents ten hours for your work day, two hours for your physical conditioning period, five hours to unplug from the stresses of the day for decompression and seven hours for sleep. (*Note: Sequence information credit goes to the Command Chief Training Course) I propose we use these guidelines as a standard of measure for life/schedule balance. Much like Col. Janik, over the years I too have developed positive distractions to recharge my spirit. From seeds-to-sauce, I grow the super-hot peppers and make hot sauce. I also carry on the tradition of raising a vegetable garden or making jelly like both of my late grandfathers. My wife Lori and I also fish, kayak and thoroughly enjoy the outdoors with our five grandchildren.

To me, the PTS-PTG-Resilience cycle is always in motion. It's not what happens but how we respond. Much like our February 2020 base closure experiences have since helped so many others during the initial days of COVID-19, so do all of our life experiences. Truth be told, our shared experiences and seeking to understand each of our Airmen is not only what makes our American Airmen so successful, it's what makes our entire United States of America a special place to live.

Final thoughts

In last year's submission, not knowing what was just around the corner for us, I wrote: "On her darkest day, our nation may ask you to commit violence on her behalf, to defend the homeland against an outside aggressor or to deliver humanitarian relief to her neighbors. When that time comes, our Airmen will be prepared … My fellow Airmen, you can do this." Then, when we rang in the New Year, none of us could have predicted for 2020 the dire circumstance that birthed a desperate need to help Americans right here within the borders of our own homeland. When the short notice plea for help arrived, your military training, combined with your own personal readiness, enabled a lightning-fast response that thundered so greatly upon your arrival, it echoed across the entire world! America. Called. You. HEROES! At home, we smiled and called you Brothers and Sisters in the Profession of Arms. And make no mistake, with all clarity of the moment, even our adversaries sat up and took note of the speed of our response.
Since then, you all have led our Airmen with confidence, conviction, compassion and grace. We walked this 2020 path together, carrying one another's burdens, growing as human beings, cultivating friendships and developing leaders. Truth be told, adversity brings out the best in our American Airmen, and 2020 gave us the opportunity to demonstrate what we are made of.

Finally, it is sincerely bittersweet for me to announce as of Feb. 17, 2021, I am reassigned as Command Chief Master Sergeant, 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. That said, I am deeply grateful to have been granted the opportunity and space to stand before you, to look into your eyes, to share the angst of the unknown, to commiserate with my own war stories, and together, celebrate our numerous mission victories and to also grieve our team's most devastating and personal losses. It is in such moments that I stand awestruck in what you all have achieved as individuals and even more so as a team. The real story here is not what I may have taught some of you, but instead, the immense measure of what you all have taught me. It is an understatement to say that I am busting-at-the-seams proud to be your most Senior Enlisted Leader. Chief Loadmaster Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Marino refers to matters such as these as family business. Brothers and Sisters, it has been my highest honor to serve you all in this branch of the family business here at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

HERCS OVER AMERICA

A 22nd AIR FORCE SALUTE TO MEDICAL WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Aircrew members assigned to the 757th AS flew C-130H Hercules aircraft over hospitals in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania as part of the "America Strong" movement started by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds to support first responders and medical workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eric M. White

The 910th Airlift Wing's fleet of eight C-130H Hercules aircraft sit on the ramp at Youngstown Air Reserve Station while maintainers prep two of them for takeoff, May 7, 2020.

Senior Airman Christina Russo

An Airman marshals a C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron to the flightline for takeoff, May 4, 2020.

Eric M. White

A pair of C-130H Hercules aircraft taxi to the runway, May 7, 2020, before taking off to perform flyovers of area hospitals in salute of first responders and medical workers.

1 – Senior Airman Christina Russo

2 – Senior Airman Christina Russo

3 – Eric M. White

1.) A 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft takes off from the flightline at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, May 4, 2020.

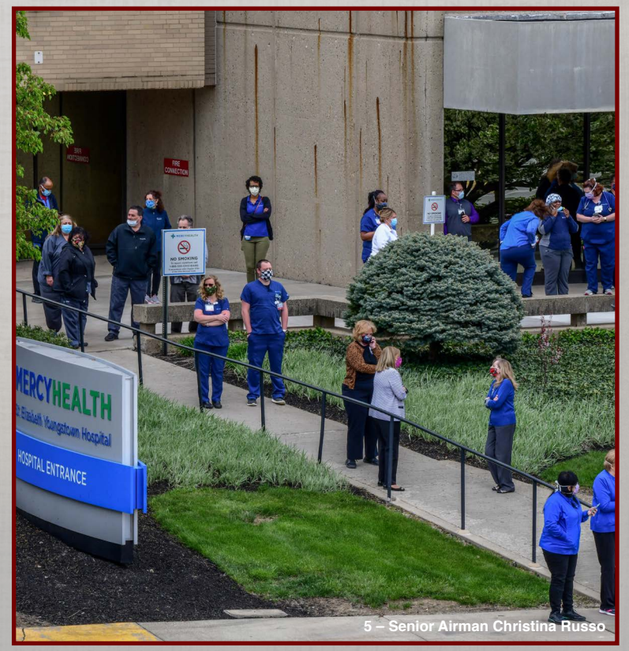
2.) Two C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron fly over Mercy Health — St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, on May 4, 2020.

3.) An employee of Trumbull Regional Medical Center in Warren, Ohio, waves to a 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft as it flies over the hospital, May 7, 2020.

4.) An employee of Mercy Health — St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, Ohio, holds a large American flag with his coworkers while awaiting a C-130H Hercules flyover on May 4, 2020.

5.) Employees of Mercy Health — St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, Ohio, await a C-130H Hercules flyover in salute of medical workers on May 4, 2020.

4 – Senior Airman Christina Russo



5 – Senior Airman Christina Russo

910th MDS STORMS PANDEMIC FRONT LINE

IN UNIFORM AND OUT OF UNIFORM

Mr. Eric M. White
Published April 17, 2020

Capt. Drezden Johnson, assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron, cares for a patient at the Javits New York Medical Station in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response, April 25, 2020. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, is providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need. (U.S. Army photo/Pfc. Genesis Miranda)

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—Three members of the 910th Medical Squadron are adding to the front line fight against COVID-19 by deploying to Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. At least 14 more are expected to soon follow suit.

The members include Maj. Douglas Shaffer, nurse anesthetist and officer-in-charge of unit safety and the fit-to-fight program, Capt. Jamila Thomas, clinical nurse and continuous process improvement lead, and Capt. Jennifer Denton, clinical nurse and officer-in-charge of immunizations.

New York is the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States. Military members deploying as care providers seamlessly integrate with civilian care providers to bolster capacity for dealing with radically increased medical needs related to the virus. Service members' arrival at hospitals relieves civilian medical professionals who are working overtime to help tackle the surge of patients in need of intensive care.

Using their respective care provider capacities and skills, Shaffer, Thomas and Denton are all providing essential hands-on care in Intensive Care Units at Lincoln Medical Center. They are helping to save lives and provide comfort to those who cannot be saved.

The 910th Medical Squadron's primary mission is to ensure the health and fitness for deployment of the 910th Airlift Wing's Reserve Citizen Airmen. The unit's functions normally include performing physicals, flight physicals and other health assessments and overseeing aspects of the Air Force's physical fitness test. Many of the unit's members work in the medical field in their civilian capacity and are already serving on the front lines against COVID-19 in Emergency Rooms, civilian hospitals, VA hospitals and ICUs across the country. Included among them is 910th Medical Squadron Commander Col. Colleen Kelley.

While providing leadership of the 910th MDS, Col. Kelley is also caring for a dramatically increased ER patient illness level as Dr. Kelley in her hometown emergency department.

"I'm extraordinarily proud of them," said Kelley. "When the tasking order has come in, every one of them has stood up and said, 'I'm in.' They're taking care of themselves and taking care of each other, ready to perform their skills to save Americans."

Kelley explained that because this is a wide-spread disease, leadership has to consider whether a service member is performing a critical function in their civilian capacity before deciding whether that person should deploy in military status to another location.

"Some of them feel quite badly that they are unable to meet the military need," said Kelley, "but the work they're doing in their home community is equally important. The number of people who have volunteered who are not already in a critical role at home is, quite frankly, astonishing."

The 910th Airlift Wing's mission statement is: Combat ready NOW… for tomorrow's fight!

910th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Casey Dodds sees the Airmen under his command exemplifying that mission statement by supporting fellow Americans against the pandemic.

"Last summer, if you asked what tomorrow's fight would be, most likely it would have been thoughts of violent extremist organizations establishing a foothold in a far off land," said Dodds. "The reality is quite different from how we've organized, trained and equipped. Now, we are tailoring our capabilities to provide the best possible support to the civilian agencies on the front line of today's fight. I could not be more proud of our Citizen Airmen and their families. Fight's On!"

Whether that fight is an international conflict, humanitarian crisis, cyber battle or, as the nation is facing now, a pandemic, the 910th's personnel maintain readiness in their respective functions.

Chief Master Sgt. Chris Williams, the 910th Airlift Wing's command chief, helps ensure the wing's enlisted force is constantly ready to deploy and execute the mission.

"Our Citizen Airmen have clearly demonstrated the impressive ability to pack their bags, hug their families and board an aircraft within 24 hours of notification," said Williams. "COVID-19 Support has compelled us to re-think our readiness model. As such, the American public and even the world at large gets one more demonstration that the United States of America possesses the most lethal and best trained Reserve forces. As your leaders, we stand in awe of what you have demonstrated to us, the American people and the world."

The 910th Medical Squadron has a battle cry that is familiar to most personnel at Youngstown Air Reserve Station. It's best communicated by the squadron shouting it in unison, but according to the unit's commander, requires specific punctuation to write correctly.

"It's 'MDS…yes! Yes!! YES!!!" said Kelley. "It is an honor to be their commander."

CAREER AND DIVERSITY DAY INSPIRES PURPOSE AND UNITY

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—The Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing hosted a Career and Diversity Day here, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

"The purpose of the Career and Diversity Day is to connect with Airmen in a more profound way," said Col. Sharon Johnson, 910th Maintenance Group commander, who spearheaded the event. "We want to celebrate Airmen for who they are as a person, the heritage, ethnicity and culture they connect with, and to celebrate who they are as an Airman and what they bring to the fight. It brings individual culture to an event and creates a safe space to introduce and share cultural music, food, art, and helps connect us all through experience and shared conversations."

The event welcomed four cultural performances, various ethnic and cultural food samplings and 24 base organizations.

One of the event guests included Air Force Reserve Command Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer G. Lee Floyd.

"I was invited by wing leadership to see all the great things going on," said Floyd. "The 910th appears to have elements of S.T.E.M., which is a huge driver in the area of diversity and inclusion. Kudos to the wing and the 910th diversity council led by Col. Casey Dodds."

Airmen from around the base could be seen in action displaying their pride through various cultural activities.

Senior Airman Lamont Hicks Jr., a command support staff specialist assigned to the 910th Mission Support Group, is a member of Sang and Hangout, an original R&B sing-along variety show that performed at the event.

"Bringing everyone together is what we strive to do," said Hicks. "I try not to limit it to music and dance to allow the aspect of Diversity Day to expand and open up to everyone. Getting everyone to come together, that is the point of Diversity Day."

During Sang and Hangout's performance, many Airmen were singing and dancing, including Tech. Sgt. Danielle Knight, the development and training flight chief assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing.

"This event was amazing," said Knight. "I have been at the 910th since 2013, and we have never had any event like that here. It is important to understand the different ethnicities across the base. When you learn something about someone else's culture it then makes sense why people do this or that a certain way. It helps everyone work better together."

The event also focused on exposing Airmen to other career fields on base.

"We need to retain Airmen, and if cross-training is what is needed to achieve that goal, we owe them to let them know the seemingly unlimited possibilities and how to do that," said Johnson. "This event helps Airmen to see what other career options are available to them."

The overall effort of the Career and Diversity Day was to bring together the unique differences of Airmen to form a valued organization where Airmen know they can prosper and continue to serve with pride.

"We have seasoned and young Airmen," said Johnson. "Who we are and how we grew up makes us who we are. We should be very proud of who we are and continue growing in our Airmanship to value everyone on our team. We have five generations of different Airmen, and we have to find a way to connect. Gen. David Goldfein (Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force) stated that diversity is a 'mission imperative.' The Career and Diversity Day is the execution piece that brings us all together."

G. Lee Floyd, Air Force Reserve Command Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, gives a thumbs up wearing air crew flight equipment at the Career and Diversity Day at YARS, Jan. 11, 2020.

Senior Airman Lamont Hicks Jr., a command support staff specialist assigned to the 910th Mission Support Group and member of Sang and Hangout musical group, performs various sing-a-longs with fellow group members at the Career and Diversity Day at YARS, Jan. 11, 2020.

Lt. Col. Benjamin Rivera, Deputy Commander of the 910th Maintenance Group, plays guitar with a Korean War veteran at the Career and Diversity Day at YARS, Jan. 11, 2020. The purpose of the Career and Diversity Day was to bring together the unique differences of Airmen to form a valued organization where Airmen know they can prosper and continue to serve with pride.

TWO NATIONS ONE PILOT

Photo and story by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—

A propeller slowly turns, three more soon follow its lead. As the speed increases, so too does a constant whining sound. The whine transforms to a roar, changing the key of the mechanical melody. A C-130H Hercules prepares for takeoff.

Aboard the aircraft, the crewmembers run their checks. On each of their flight suits is a "Blue Tiger" 757th Airlift Squadron patch, but the flight commander is wearing it on his left, where the American flag would normally go. On his right shoulder is a 1st Tactical Airlift Wing patch.

Maj. Kazunori Takahara, a Japan Air-Self Defense Force C-130H pilot, has traveled more than 6,500 miles from Komaki, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, to Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

He is a participant in the Defense Personnel Exchange Program. The two-and-a-half-year program provides a system of mutual exchange of officers for duty within the two services.

"I was excited. I wanted to be an exchange officer," said Takahara. "The U.S. and Japan's alliance is getting more and more important, especially in the West Pacific Region, so this program is very important."

DPEP is designed to nurture the bonds of friendship and understanding that exist between the two air forces through the exchange of ideas and tactics by the members of each service.

Takahara is the first exchange officer to be hosted by the 910th Operations Group and has been assigned to the 757th AS.

"They're very friendly," said Takahara. "I think the 910th Operations Group has very good teamwork. It's a very good group and squadron. I like Youngstown Air Reserve Station, and I'm very happy to be here."

Before Takahara could be an exchange officer, he had to pass an English proficiency test at the Defense Language Institute in Texas.

"America has more clear and precise communication skills with each other I think," said Takahara. "Cause you have all the different cultures from other regions of the world. So you have to communicate with other people clearly and precisely, you have to use the right words in a conversation. I studied a lot."

Afterward, Takahara went home to Japan for his final approvals and returned in April of 2019 to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arizona, where he spent approximately seven months learning flying procedures and the differences in the United States' and Japan's C-130H Hercules aircraft setups.

"It's a little bit different setup," said Takahara. "But it's not a huge difference. I can learn ideas, tactics and operational management style as a crew member of the flight squadron. Of course, I can bring back the knowledge and experience to Japan, and then teach those to my coworkers."

Takahara will be stationed at YARS working side-by-side with Reserve Citizen Airmen until October of 2021. The 910th AW did not have a pilot available to exchange, so the position was filled by an active-duty Air Force volunteer.

AFTER MORE THAN 12,000 HOURS IN THE AIR, ENGINEER TAKES FINAL FLIGHT

Photo and story by Senior Airman Christina Russo

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—

From an early age, Senior Master Sgt. Vince Bartlomain, an evaluator flight engineer with the 757th Airlift Squadron, was dead set on one thing in life.

"I wanted to work on airplanes, and I knew the best place to do it would be the military," said Bartlomain.

In 1979, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and after four years of active duty service in Omaha, Nebraska, Bartlomain found his home at Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna, Ohio.

Bartlomain joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1990 and hit the ground running upon his arrival at YARS. Within his first year at the installation, he went from being a crew chief to becoming a flight engineer.

Bartlomain would spend the next 30 years at YARS as a flight engineer traveling to all 50 states and most of South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. He even flew on a mission that not many aircrew members can say they have flown.

"I got to fly around the world when we went to Thailand (Operation Cobra Gold 1993)," said Bartlomain. "We took off going east and came back from the west."

Aircrew members often aim for specific flying milestones. There's the first 1,000 flying hours and even 7,500. But then, there's the ever sought after 10,000 mark, which few C-130 aircrew members hit. Bartlomain blew through that milestone.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, Bartlomain took to the skies one final time as a flight engineer, and after landing from his "fini flight," clocked in with a grand total of 12,303.7 flying hours. Bartlomain spent more than 510 days of his military career in the air.

"All my flying hours have been with 910th aircraft with the exception I flew other units' planes on deployment," said Bartlomain. "I got to fly 910th planes when they were brand new. I didn't get to pick one up from the factory, but I got to fly the plane when it had less than 20 hours."

Having worked on several different aircraft throughout his career, one remains his favorite.

"By far, the C-130 is the best aircraft to work on and fly," said Bartlomain.

The 910th Airlift Wing is home to the C-130H Hercules aircraft which is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips under a wide-range of operational climates in order to fulfill a mission. It's considered to be a workhorse aircraft that is resilient and reliable. Bartlomain's wingmen agree that he embodies those same qualities.

"Bartlomain could be defined as a workhorse," said Chief Master Sgt. Scott Young, chief flight engineer with the 757th Airlift Squadron. "There wasn't a mission that he would turn down. It could be a pilot proficiency training mission or a mission dropping equipment to troops in a combat zone. He wanted to be there in the seat, doing the job."

Bartlomain's work ethic and willingness to live by the Air Force core values have earned him two Meritorious Service, seven Air and five Aerial Achievement Medals along with other awards acknowledging his dedication to service.

"One thing that stands out the most to me is his commitment to the service of his country and the dedication he applied every day," said Young.

Many individuals join the military to see the world, and that is exactly what Bartlomain did.

While traveling on many routine airdrop missions to the Pacific, Bartlomain found a new passion in life beyond that of airplanes - he found Hawaii.

"Who wouldn't love Hawaii?" said Bartlomain. "It's such an amazing place. There is so much to do, and the sights are like nothing else I've ever seen."

His love for Hawaii eventually turned into a yearly vacation tradition.

"The military has allowed me to see so much and I wanted my daughter to see some of what I've seen," said Bartlomain. "Hawaii was the place. We have been vacationing in Oahu (Waikiki Beach) every February for the last 15 years."

As Bartlomain begins a new chapter in his life, many on the installation will feel the void left behind.

"The 910th Operations Group and the flight engineer section especially will miss 'Vinny's' ability to make people feel at ease and the 12,300+ hours of experience," said Young.

Whether in the air or on the ground, Bartlomain has left a lasting mark on YARS, and even though the void left by his departure will be ever present, there will be new opportunities for Airmen to step up and follow in his footsteps.

"The military offers so much to us," said Bartlomain. "Take advantage of everything you can. Make your career the best you can by learning as much as you can. Get involved in making your workplace better, and be nice to each other."

As the men and women of YARS send off their fellow Airman, they do not say goodbye to Batlomain; but rather, "A hui hou makou i ka lewa" which in Hawaiian means, "until we meet again in the air."

MOTHER DAUGHTER DUO SERVES ON PANDEMIC FRONTLINE

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi with courtesy photos

NEW YORK CITY, New York—

An alarm sounds in a New York City hotel room at 6:30 in the morning. Micaela Gutlove throws on some everyday clothes, places her cellphone in a plastic zip bag and hurries to make the shuttle heading for a hospital in Harlem by 7 a.m. She clocks in before making her way to the hospital's breakroom to change into her blue-green medical scrubs and a pair of pink and grey running shoes she specifically uses for her day in the hospital. Normally, she'd check up on her patients. But during the COVID-19 pandemic, she first gears up with multiple layers of personal protective equipment.

A few miles away, Micaela's mother, Lt. Col. Susan Gutlove, is donning the same type of protective gear over her Air Force Reserve uniform while at New York City's Javits Center.

The women put on shoe covers, then rubber gloves and large heavy gowns. Hairnets and goggles add to the protection of standard N95 masks.

Micaela wears a bandage on the bridge of her nose to protect her skin from the tightly-fastened mask she wears for her 13-hour shift. Since the N95 mask is such a valuable resource, she covers it with a surgical mask to ensure it is protected throughout the day and can be reused the next day.

Upon entering a patient's room, yet another mask and gown are required. She writes "MICAELA RN" on the front of her gown so her co-workers and patients can easily recognize her. Just below that, she draws a smiley face.

Though the masks and vestments are mostly made of paper, they trap her body heat. As her goggles slowly fog over, it becomes harder to recognize her co-workers, some of whom wear photos to reveal who they are beneath the layers of protection.

Micaela has three patients to provide care for, a dramatic decrease from the 14 patients per shift some nurses experienced at the onset of the outbreak. She makes her rounds, ensuring each patient receives the correct amount of oxygen through ventilators, CPAP masks or nasal tubes. Although all of her patients have COVID-19, most have secondary issues they struggle with, like diabetes or high blood pressure. Each of these underlying issues requires its own specific form of care. Medications, IVs, diets, medical procedures, even helping people get to the bathroom—these are all things she needs to stay on top of.

Everything she does requires skill, patience and sincerity of care above all to ensure those who are sick can return home to their families. Beyond the physical needs of her charges, she does what she can to ensure their psychological needs are met. With the few moments of extra time she has, she talks with them and comforts them as they regain their strength. Sometimes, when the ward's electronic tablet is in use, she offers her own phone to facetime the patient's family and friends, if only for just a few moments.

After working for 12 hours on the front line, Micaela returns to her hotel room and throws her clothing into a tub to wash them with detergent and water, the last measure to protect herself from the virus she spent the day combatting in others.

In March 2020, Lt. Col. Susan Gutlove, a clinical nurse for the 910th Medical Squadron and a nurse practitioner in the civilian sector, came to Youngstown Air Reserve Station on a monthlong order to help provide leadership during the initial pandemic response. On April 20, she and 14 other Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Medical Squadron were asked to serve in New York City, adding to the three 910th Airmen who had already deployed to help in the virus fight. Within 48 hours, the team was outfitted with N95 masks and ready to depart YARS. Susan Gutlove spent her first week in the Jacob J. Javits Convention Center, one of three military-run hospitals in New York City.

According to a press release by New York's governor, Andrew Cuomo, "The Javits" has 760,000 square feet of flexible exhibition space which was converted with the help of the National Guard into a 1,200-bed medical facility in late March. Should the need arise, the field hospital has the ability to expand to nearly 3,000 beds, rivaling New York-Presbyterian Hospital's 2,600 bed capacity. During the month it was used, it housed more than 1,000 overflow patients. Although it is no longer serving that function due to the subsequent drop in COVID-19 cases, it remains assembled and ready as a precaution should another major outbreak occur.

"Javits was tough," said Susan Gutlove. "I don't really know if you can ease your way into patient care for people with COVID-19, but that was exactly what Javits was for us. We were able to ease into putting on all our personal protective equipment, like all the masks, protective gowns and eye protection."

When the Gutloves arrived in New York, COVID-19 was relatively new to health care practitioners. Those just entering the fray were learning to identify the virus' symptoms, how to treat it and the best ways to stop its spread. It challenged volunteers to remain vigilant and flexible and for people around the nation to come together and work as a team.

After the closure of the Javits Center, the medical professionals of YARS were relocated to other areas of need, with Susan Gutlove moving to a hospital in Queens to work on a floor entirely dedicated to non-COVID-19 patients.

Micaela got to New York a week before her mother's arrival on a contract with New York City Hospitals + Health, an integrated health care system of 11 hospitals, and has spent her time working in Harlem. She first started thinking about offering her professional skills to the people of NYC in February when she received a text message asking for volunteers.

"I always wanted to do travel nursing," Micaela said. "At that point I figured it was either go big or go home. I actually quit my previous job in order to do this."

When Micaela first decided to join the fight to retake New York City, she was nervous about how her parents would take the news. Believing her mother and father would be against her decision, she was shocked at how supportive they were of the idea.

"My parents have always supported me in everything that I've done, but I honestly expected a different reaction when I told them my decision," said Micaela. "To know they not only support me but that I can share this experience with my mom has really brought us closer together."

Although the mother-daughter duo has been in New York City, their demanding schedules have given them few moments together.

The Gutloves said that although their schedules don't really match up and they have only seen each other twice since arriving in New York City, it is a blessing when they do. Spending time together gives them a chance to process everything they go through while on the clock. Beyond their familial ties, Susan and Micaela Gutlove are able to use their shared profession as a further outlet of support.

"Taking care of a COVID patient is nothing like we learned in any academic institution," said Susan Gutlove. "These long hours have been draining. So being able to come back to my room, curl up in bed and call my daughter to connect and share our experience has been extremely helpful."

The Gutloves said what is most heartbreaking for them is that all the patients they are caring for have been completely blindsided by their illness.

"One day they are fine, another day they have a cough and fever and by late evening they are in the hospital with a tube down their throat," said Susan Gutlove. "It all happens so fast. The experience is completely different compared to what we are used to. A complete 180-degree turn."

Despite the challenges, precautions and persistence of COVID-19, the Gutloves see the tide beginning to turn.

"Things are getting better," said Susan, "way better than they were at the end of March and early April. With the closure of Javits and the departure of the hospital ship, Comfort, intensive care units are still busy, but we are seeing much of the hospital's staff returning from quarantine. Things are definitely starting to get better though."

Susan Gutlove has always wanted to help people as a medical professional. The sciences came easy to her and she recalls the satisfaction her mother had as an assistant in a nursing home. After nearly three decades in the field, she isn't turning back.

"The praise and stories my mother came home with each day endeared me to the medical profession," said Susan Gutlove. "It made me feel as though this was the road to take as well. I didn't need an epiphany or anything. It was just something I gravitated toward."

Micaela Gutlove also found her desire to become a nurse from her parents and their satisfaction in the field. But a mission trip with her father, Dr. David Gutlove, to the Dominican Republic is what truly sealed the deal.

"I was able to help out in the hospital," said Micaela Gutlove. "I was around a lot of nurses and doctors while on the trip. As a high school student, I even got to scrub in for surgeries. Having that experience really drew me in."

As Micaela settles into her hotel room after an exhausting day, her cellphone, now free from its protective bag, rings. It's her mother who just finished her own 12-hour shift at a hospital in Queens. They're both nurses. They both volunteered to serve in New York. They're both Americans selflessly working to save American lives. But for a few moments on the phone before going to sleep in preparation of another day at war against a vicious virus, they're just a mother and daughter supporting each other through their shared experience.

People wonder if a person's character is a product of nature or nurture. If it's something that an individual is taught over time or if it something a person is born with. The Gutloves provide evidence it comes from a little bit of both.

Lt. Col. Susan Gutlove, a clinical nurse for the 910th Medical Squadron and a nurse practitioner in the civilian sector, snaps a selfie wearing both N95 and surgical masks while working in New York City Hospitals + Health's Queens Branch, May 14, 2020.

Lt. Col. Susan Gutlove and her daughter Micaela Gutlove, a registered nurse, pose for a photo while celebrating an early Mother's Day together in New York City, May 9, 2020. The Gutloves were in New York City for COVID-19 response.

Micaela Gutlove, a registered nurse, poses for a photo while wearing some of the personal protective equipment needed for working with coronavirus patients in New York City Hospitals + Health's Harlem Branch, May 14, 2020.

RALLY IN THE VALLEY

Graphical illustration by Mr. Eric M. White
Story by Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

A multi-day C-130 training exercise under a distributed operations concept, Aug. 22-25, 2020.

Senior Airman Nathan Byrnes

3 STAGING LOCATIONS

MULTIPLE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ACCOMPLISHED

CARGO DROPS

GROUND FORCE RESUPPLY

FORMATION FLIGHTS

Senior Airman Christina Russo

A parachute attached to cargo opens after being pushed out the back of a C-130H Hercules aircraft by a loadmaster, Aug. 23, 2020, over Summerville Lake, West Virginia.

Senior Airman Nathan Byrnes

Cargo floats toward a drop zone during a formation airdrop near Charleston, West Virginia, Aug. 24, 2020.

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—The morning fog burns off to reveal the Appalachian Mountains. The Gauley River glimmers with the rising sun as eight shadows drag across the West Virginia landscape accompanied by a low rumble. It was meant to be a small exercise, but necessity turned it into something more.

"Rally in the Valley started as a small flying event in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Seminar that was supposed to happen at Youngstown this year," said Maj. Chris "Crash" Acs, a pilot with the 327th Airlift Squadron from Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, and lead planner of Rally in the Valley. "Initially, we thought maybe it'd be three, four, maybe five planes and then it grew into ten planes."

RITV kicked off on Aug. 22, 2020, with the 22nd Air Force's SLS held over Zoom. The next three days, Aug. 23-25, brought 22nd units from across the United States together in air and cyberspace where they would plan together, fly together and take care of each other, while never actually seeing each other.

"The resurgence of COVID this summer gave some pause to 22nd Air Force leadership," said Crash. "So eleven days before we went into execution, Maj. Gen. John Healy (commander of the 22nd AF) made the right decision, the safe decision, to go into what's called distributed operations."

In a short time, the 913th Airlift Group's RITV lead planning cells and two 327th AS C-130Js moved operations to Charleston, WV. Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, staged two of its own 757th Airlift Squadron C-130Hs and one 908th Airlift Wing C-130H from Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base, Ohio, staged one 94th Airlift Wing C-130H from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, and one 934th Airlift Wing C-130H from Minneapolis-St Paul Joint Air Reserve Station, Minnesota.

"The challenge was that I didn't see the people up at Mansfield (or Youngstown)," said Crash. "I worked through Teams meetings, Zoom, telephone calls and emails trying to set everything up with people I've never met before."

The West Virginia Air National Guard also provided a 130th Airlift Wing C-130H to fly in conjunction with 22nd AF units, bringing the final aircraft count to eight.

"COVID has kind of sidelined a large portion of the country to include, for a while, our military, so as reservists we have to stay sharp at what we do regardless of the conditions that are going on in the country, because the country still depends on us to be able to do a job," said Crash. "The idea was that we would come back and prove that we were still capable of answering the nation's call."

Within three days, the six units accomplished tactical departures, routes and recoveries, a wide variety of airdrops, secure radio events and datalink sorties while reacting to quick threat events brought on by the simulated enemies in the area.

"We're going out and not just flying low level," said Crash. "We're doing routes that we've never done before, we're going to drop zones that we've never been to before."

What was originally going to be a small event grew into a 22nd AF exercise playing at a simulated deployment scenario, where they were fighting against a near-peer through an insurgent enemy in some contested space, land and air.

"We pulled out Google Maps and I said, 'There's Youngstown. West Virginia looks like a cool place to do some stuff. Hey, there's a dirt landing zone. There's an airport in Summersville, let's make a drop zone there. Hey, there's a lake, let's make a drop zone over there,'" said Crash. "We started tracing our steps back to Camp Branch, and I said, 'Hey, that mountain looks like a cool spot to drop something on.' The whole thing came together like that on a Friday night. Then, distributed ops forced us away from each other thanks to COVID."

Amid COVID and uncertain conditions, Rally in the Valley was a mission success as a proof of concept for future 22nd AF operations.

TOP PERFORMERS RECOGNIZED AT AWARDS BANQUET

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

The 910th Airlift Wing held its annual awards banquet at the Community Activity Center here, March 7, 2020. The Airman of the Year award program is designed to recognize Airmen who display superior leadership, job performance and personal achievement.

The following individuals received awards during the event's marquee presentation:

Staff Sgt. Richard Massropian
910th Maintenance Squadron
Airman of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Kara Kauffman
910th Operations Support Squadron
Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Master Sgt. Eloy Salinas
910th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Brian Barrett
76th Aerial Port Squadron
First Sergeant of the Year

2nd Lt. Yelena Promyshlyayeva
910th Operations Support Squadron
Company Grade Officer of the Year

Mrs. Kalee Kochansky
910th Airlift Wing Key Spouse
Key Spouse of the Year

Other event highlights included a Prisoner Of War/Missing In Action ceremony performed by the YARS Base Honor Guard, entertainment provided by the Canfield High School Jazz Band and guest speaker James P. Tressel, the president of Youngstown State University and former head coach of four national championship football teams. Tressel commended the award winners and the Reserve Citizen Airmen of YARS on their work ethic and selflessness.

"The greatest teams I was ever a part of consisted of selfless leadership, selfless willingness to take a role that the group needed so that the group could be successful," said Tressel. "And that's the beauty of this room full of people. You don't always get to do exactly what you have in mind, but because of your selflessness, we have the world's greatest military."

The banquet also gave the opportunity for Youngstown to introduce its star Airmen to the newly appointed 22nd Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. John P. Healy, who attended the event as a distinguished guest.

910TH OPERATIONS GROUP RECOGNIZES THEIR FINEST AIRMEN

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

The 910th Operations Group announced the Susan Kintz Operations Support Airman and the Major Karl Hoerig Aircrew of the Year Award winners, March 7, 2020. Airmen recognized for these awards embody the legacy of hard work and dedication of both Kintz and Hoerig.

The following Reserve Citizen Airmen received awards:

Staff Sgt. Mariela Love, personnel specialist
Susan Kintz Operations Support Airman of the Year

Barbara Sawicki, unit deployment manager
Susan Kintz Operations Support Civilian of the Year

Capt. Keith Holcomb
Major Karl Hoerig Pilot of the Year

Capt. Maren Ferreira
Major Karl Hoerig Co-pilot of the Year

Capt. James Kiriazis
Major Karl Hoerig Navigator of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Tim Frease
Major Karl Hoerig Engineer of the Year

Staff Sgt. Tyler Messina
Major Karl Hoerig Loadmaster of the Year

"They rose above, they stepped up, they deployed and conducted themselves with incredible professionalism," said Lt. Col. Patrick Sines, Commander of the 910th Operations Support Squadron. "We've gotten remarks from people not just within the unit but from people who have flown with us saying, 'The 910th is awesome, the 910th is professional in what they do.' Many of those Airmen recognized were part of those crews that were commented on."

The Aircrew of the Year Award is given in honor of Maj. Karl Hoerig, a decorated combat pilot who carried out over 200 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hoerig was a celebrated member of the 910th Airlift Wing known for his professionalism and enthusiasm. He died tragically in March 2007.

"You can't have an aircrew award without recognizing your operations support Airmen too," said Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer, acting commander of the 910th Operations Group. "The voice of Suzy Kintz carries a lot of weight in Ops. We call her our mom. She has really taken care of us from the day we get here 'til the day we retire. In honor of Suzy, we wanted to recognize the Airmen that perpetuate her enthusiasm and continue to take care of us."

INNOVATIVE YOUNGSTOWN ARS AIRMAN ASSISTS WITH HQ ARPC MISSION

Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center is the organization charged with executing policies that impact the Air Reserve Component, as well as providing direct support to wing-level Force Support and Commander Support Staffs.

The largest directorate within HQ ARPC is the Directorate of Total Force Services. This directorate provides a wide variety of services including the processing of retirements, evaluations, recognitions (formerly known as awards and decorations), and DD 214s.

Senior Airman Lamont Hicks, a personnel specialist assigned to DPT, has become a key member of both the evaluations and the recognitions sections since his selection for a temporary duty assignment at HQ ARPC just five months ago.

"I came to ARPC's Directorate of Total Force Services from the 910th Security Forces Squadron's Command Support Staff at Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Ohio," said Hicks. "This experience working for ARPC has been the first time I have been selected by the Air Force Reserve to serve outside of my home unit. I've learned so much on this assignment in the short span of time that I've been here. I am truly grateful for the opportunity afforded to me and I can't wait to share all of the knowledge I've gained here with my team back at my home unit. "

As a personnelist in the Evaluations and Recognitions sections, Hicks and his team oversee all evaluations for HQ ARPC personnel including enlisted and officers and he assists in handling award and decoration submissions for all members for HQ ARPC.

Hicks also accommodates external customers like members of the Air National Guard by initiating annual and bi-annual reports for the ANG that are needed to ensure each member's performance is documented and placed into the member's records.

In a short period of time, Hicks has made a significant impact on the organization in a number of ways.

"So far in my time here at ARPC, I have created a decoration checklist that allows for a more efficient and streamlined processing of decorations for members," said Hicks. "I also have become a sponsor for incoming Airmen to the unit. I still am relatively new to the experience of ARPC, but I really appreciate all it has to offer."

When not in uniform, Hicks pushes himself to grow out of his comfort-zone and pursue opportunities to make himself a more well-rounded individual.

"Currently I am working toward getting my real estate license," said Hicks. "I also have established a media company in my home state of Ohio. My main goal with the media company is to unite the world through song within COVID-19 guidelines."

While both his military and civilian endeavors keep him busy, Hicks still has some goals he would like to attain.

"A personal goal of mine is that I want to give back to my family and community," said Hicks. "I would love to mentor and donate back to my home community. I want to show kids that where they come from doesn't have to define them and that leading an honest, successful career is possible."

As for his military career, Hicks stated that he hopes to one day become a sergeant and eventually commission to become an Air Force officer.

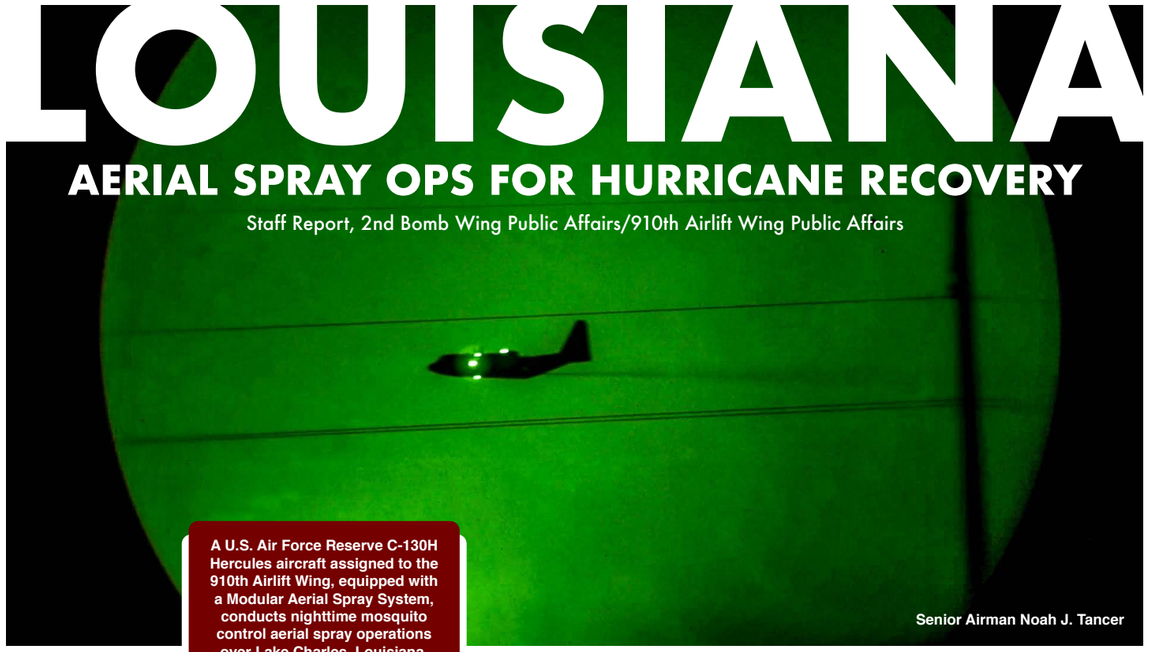
Hicks credits his experience at HQ ARPC for giving him the experience and confidence to tackle future missions.

"I truly believe I can go anywhere after this mission and be able to swim," he said.

LOUISIANA

AERIAL SPRAY OPS FOR HURRICANE RECOVERY

Staff Report, 2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs/910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



A U.S. Air Force Reserve C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, equipped with a Modular Aerial Spray System, conducts nighttime mosquito control aerial spray operations over Lake Charles, Louisiana, Oct. 21, 2020, in the aftermath of Hurricane Delta.

Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.— U.S. Air Force C-130H Hercules aircraft, equipped with Modular Aerial Spray Systems (MASS), and approximately 85 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, deployed to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, to conduct mosquito control aerial spray missions over southern Louisiana.

The C-130s and their aircrews, including pilots, flight engineers, navigators, loadmasters who also double as aerial spray operators and an entomologist have been spraying since Oct. 20, 2020, and have treated nearly half a million acres as of Oct. 25, 2020. Ground support personnel for the mission include additional entomologists, operations support mission planners, aerial spray maintenance, communications, aircraft maintenance, squadron aviation resource managers, aircrew flight equipment and a command team including a mission commander, director of operations, a mission first sergeant and public affairs representatives.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and upon approval by the Department of Defense, U.S. Northern Command activated the 910th AW to provide aerial spray capability to assist civil authorities in Louisiana.

"Our military men and women are privileged to be able to assist the interagency team and people of Louisiana as they recover from the recent hurricanes Delta and Laura," said Lt. Gen. Kirk Pierce, commander, First Air Force, Air Forces Northern. "The Air Force Reserve's 910th Aerial Spray Flight normally conducts spray missions at dusk and nighttime hours using night vision technology when pest insects are most active, and the 910th's men and women are longtime pros at this mission."

Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH), U.S. Northern Command's U.S. Air Force air component command, is the DoD operational lead for the mission.

The heavy rains from the recent hurricanes have resulted in large areas across southwest Louisiana increasing number of mosquitoes, which can spread disease and also hinder recovery workers, resulting in less time in the field. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness says the C-130s are scheduled to spray in Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jeff Davis, Lafayette and Vermilion parishes.

"The 910th is here to assist the people of Louisiana in their time of need by providing our unique aerial spray capability," said Lt. Col. Sean Grenier, commander for the 910th's mission flying out of Barksdale. "We are prepared to conduct spray operations as long as it takes to treat the areas assigned to us by FEMA and AFNORTH."

Grenier added that the 2nd Bomb Wing, the host unit at Barksdale, provided the 910th with invaluable assistance such as the use of facilities and logistical support during the spray operations.

The 910th Airlift Wing aerial spray missions use only Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered materials. Aerial Spray is a highly controlled application using a specially-designed Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS) dispersing no more than one ounce of product per acre.

The 910th AW is home to the Department of Defense's only aerial spray capability and dedicated aerial spray maintenance flight. The last time the 910th AW supported FEMA hurricane recovery efforts with its aerial spray mission was 2017 when they treated 2.7 million acres of affected areas following Hurricane Harvey.

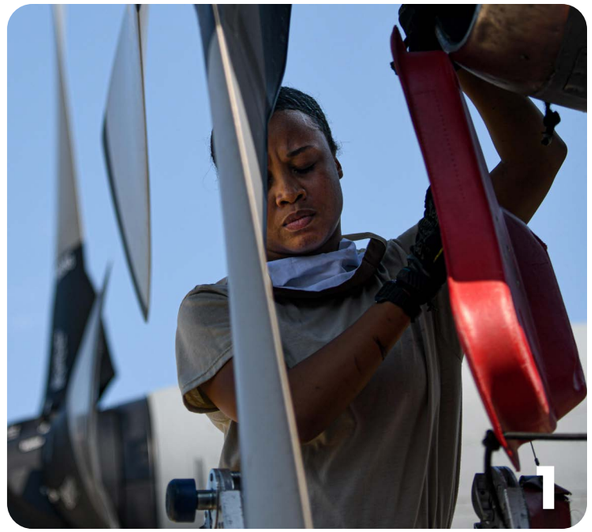
CREW CHIEFS WELCOME HOME DEPLOYED AIRCRAFT

1 Senior Airman Dayna Jones, a crew chief with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, removes a protective shield to perform a thru-flight inspection on a C-130H Hercules on Youngstown Air Reserve Station's flightline, July 7, 2020. (Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

2 Senior Airman Carissa White, a crew chief with the 910th Maintenance Squadron, conducts a pre-flight maintenance check on Youngstown Air Reserve Station's flightline, July 7, 2020. (Senior Airman Christina Russo)

3 Crew chiefs assigned to the 910th Maintenance Squadron conduct pre-flight maintenance checks on Youngstown Air Reserve Station's flightline, July 7, 2020. (Senior Airman Christina Russo)

4 Senior Airman Dayna Jones uses a flashlight to perform a thru-flight inspection on a C-130H Hercules on Youngstown Air Reserve Station's flightline, July 7, 2020. (Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)



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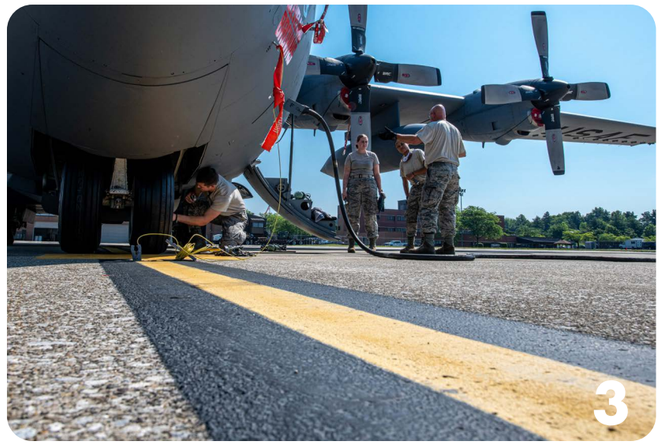

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910th FIRST SHIRTS COMPRISE AFRC's TOP COUNCIL

Story by Mr. Eric M. White

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—The 910th Airlift Wing First Sergeant Council was recently named the Air Force Reserve Command's Carol Smits First Sergeant Council of the Year for 2019. The first sergeant council is made up of the first sergeant from each of the 910th's squadrons and the wing's command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Chris Williams. Due to COVID-19 physical distancing measures, Air Force Reserve Commander Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee and Chief Master Sgt. Timothy White Jr., Air Force Reserve Command Chief Master Sgt., congratulated the council on a video conference.

First sergeants are identified by a blue diamond between their lower and upper rank stripes. They are typically hired into a squadron outside of their primary Air Force career field. Their purpose within the unit they serve is to take care of the squadron's airmen by ensuring morale, readiness and good conduct and acting as a conduit between enlisted Reserve Citizen Airmen and their commanders.

Master Sgt. Thomas Beasley is the first sergeant of the 757th Airlift Squadron here.

"People are our business, and when you think about what we do as first sergeants, we leave our Air Force Specialty Code (primary career) for a time to take care of Airmen," said Beasley, "and really that is our main job, to take care of airmen, and the construct of being within the commander's intent."

The council's award nomination highlights examples of their efforts in taking care of Airmen during 2019.

Their projects included publishing an informational postcard to help link deployed members' families with helping agencies.

The council helped revive the Rising Six organization, a group of junior enlisted members, linking senior non-commissioned officers with younger Airmen for mentorship and leadership development.

Master Sgt. Brian Barrett is the first sergeant of the 76th Aerial Port Squadron.

"Being a first sergeant in our squadron enables us to mentor our Airmen," said Barrett, "whether they're sergeants, whether they're young Airmen, to advance their careers and basically make the Air Force a better place in the future."

The first sergeant council also partnered with Airmen and Family Readiness on-base to package and deliver Thanksgiving meal baskets to 50 base families as a way of caring for Airmen.

"I think it's important for my squadron to know that they have someone who cares about them," said Senior Master Sgt. Michele Mariacher, 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant. "I think having that caring moment or even a simple thing like wishing them good luck on an Airman Leadership School test or dropping them a line to see how things are going, every Airman needs that once in a while. This is the best job I've ever had in the Air Force, and I've had a lot of great jobs."

One of the highlights of the year, and a major bullet on the award package, was supporting the wing's more than 150 deployers by working with other base agencies to host a call-a-thon. During the deployment, members of the first sergeant council made monthly calls to each deployer's family to conduct wellness checks and gauge needs that the council could help meet.

"That was pretty vital to decreasing stress levels while deployed and helping our Airmen," said Master Sgt. Skye Tancer, 910th Communication Squadron first sergeant.

The extent of the council's work went well beyond Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

"We had first sergeants who went all over the place," said Williams, "not just the installation, but out into the community and overseas, in some cases taking care of other first sergeants' airmen."

For Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Syverson, first sergeant of the 910th Operations Support Squadron, some of the most impactful things the council does are unseen by most personnel.

"Normally, when we do good things for our Airmen, they're private, and we can't discuss them," said Syverson. "Winning this award is not about the award, it's about the connections that we have with our Airmen, the piece when we walk into the room and people come to us with their problems; it's almost like a credibility stamp."

The culture of each squadron can and often does vary, especially in a deployed environment, but the 910th's first sergeants strive to maintain a singular focus on the Airmen within their influence. Having climbed the ranks to become senior enlisted members of the Air Force Reserve, they often set their sights on ensuring younger Airmen are ready to take the torch when it's passed to them.

"Part of what we're charged to do is to train and prepare our next round of leadership so that whenever we have our first sergeants that return back to their career field or they go out into the air force and they take larger roles and increased responsibility," said Williams, "then, we have that prepared force."

The 910th Airlift Wing First Sergeant Council is a critical part of fulfilling the Wing's mission statement: Combat ready NOW… for tomorrow's fight!

Reserve Citizen Airmen pose for a picture after a ceremony recognizing the First Sergeant Council for being named the 2019 Chief Master Sergeant Carol Smits First Sergeant Council of the Year, Oct. 3, 2020. During the ceremony, wing leadership unveiled a commemorative display, which hangs in the headquarters building. (Airman Chris Corso)

THREE NEW GROUP COMMANDERS

MISSION SUPPORT
Col. Gregory Meyer

Story by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi
Photo by Airman Chris Corso

Col. Gregory Meyer assumed command of the 910th Mission Support Group during an assumption of command ceremony held in Youngstown Air Reserve Station's community activity center, July 11, 2020.

Col. Joe Janik, the 910th Airlift Wing commander, officiated the ceremony and transferred the guidon, a customized flag representing the group, to Meyer symbolizing the official change of command.

"The MSG is the backbone of our organization as a stand-alone installation," said Janik. "I cannot execute our mission without troops being fed, defenders defending, airplanes fueled and loaded. I charge Col. Meyer and all of our commanders to ensure we are combat ready now for tomorrow's fight."

Meyer expressed the critical and diverse role MSG plays in the success of the 910th AW mission.

"The mission support group is incredibly diverse," said Meyer. "From buildings to emails and fuel to aircraft, there is not one aspect of Youngstown's mission or people we do not touch or affect in some way. Though our duties are diverse our focus must remain on providing our wing and our Air Force with the best, most elite, agile combat support warriors."

The concept of unity is important to Meyer and his role as a leader in the Air Force.

"The Airmen are the backbone of the U.S. Air Force and it wouldn't take flight without them," said Meyer. "Training and readiness will be key to ensure we are combat-ready any time, any place, in any domain, against any enemy, anywhere on the globe. Ubi Concordia, Ibi Victoria: Where there is unity, there is victory."

MAINTENANCE
Lt. Col. Joseph Winchester

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

Lt. Col. Joseph C. Winchester assumed command of the 910th Maintenance Group during an assumption of command ceremony held in Youngstown Air Reserve Station's community activity center, Sept. 12, 2020. Officiated by Col. Joe Janik, the commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, the 910 MXG's guidon was transferred to Winchester, symbolizing his assumption of command.

"We're very fortunate to have someone like Col. Joe Winchester on the 910th team," said Janik. "He brings a wealth of experience to us, starting off in the maintenance world, a young man, as a crew chief. He has a deep love for our maintenance folks. He went into the intel world. He's been at higher headquarters at the Pentagon and Air Force Reserve Command. More recently, he was at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base as the deputy maintenance group commander. Then, (he) was able to expand his breadth of experience and knowledge as the interim mission support group commander there. He brings all that great experience to the 910th to help us get better. Always improving our unit, that's what we're striving for."

Winchester expressed his gratitude and admiration to his Airmen.

"I'm so honored and humbled to become your group commander at such a critical time in this unit's history," said Winchester. "I've been so impressed with the work ethic and professionalism I've seen in my short time here. You've shown that you are ready and willing to support the Wing's mission, and although we have a lot of hard work ahead, I know you will continue to perform like true professionals and continue to excel."

OPERATIONS
Lt. Col. Scott Lawson

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer

Lt. Col. Scott Lawson assumed command of the 910th Operations Group during an assumption of command ceremony held in Youngstown Air Reserve Station's community activity center, Dec. 6, 2020. Officiated by Col. Joe Janik, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, the 910th OG guidon (unit flag) was transferred to Lawson, symbolizing his assumption of command.

"I got to work with Scott several years ago down at Little Rock," said Janik. "Air Force Reserve said, 'Hey, we need an Air Force Reserve part at Little Rock Air Force Base.' We got the opportunity to work together and stand up a brand new unit down there. Scott stayed at Little Rock and further developed that unit and relationships with the active-duty component… and now it's the 913th Airlift Group. Scott was part of the 327th Airlift Squadron, and I was blessed to be the first commander down there. I had a whole team of folks… and Scott was one of my racehorses. He was my go-to to make sure we were successful."

"I'm smiling pretty big under this mask," said Lawson. "I'm incredibly excited to be joining an incredible team even in the new and challenging times we are in. The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly full of obstacles, but what I've seen so far is the 910th Operations Group has been leading the way and persevering through innovative solutions. Since my arrival in early November, I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of great folks and a lot of great people within the OSS (operations support squadron) and the airlift squadron and across the wing. I've been incredibly impressed with how the operations group executes their mission and does it with such apparent ease and professionalism."

MAINTENANCE FAB FLIGHT AWARDED SIF FOR 3D PRINTER

Mr. Eric M. White

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—

Northeast Ohio is well-respected internationally as an additive manufacturing research and technology hub. Youngstown Air Reserve Station, the region's sole Air Force installation, got involved in discussions and research on potential military uses of the technology, commonly called 3D printing. Possibilities include maintenance tools and aircraft replacement parts that could be manufactured in deployed locations where supply chain logistics make it near impossible to secure parts needed for mission success.

The 910th Maintenance Group was recently awarded $72 thousand to advance its additive manufacturing capabilities through the purchase of an AON3D printer. The money was awarded through the AFWERX Squadron Innovation Fund.

Members of the 910th MXG fabrication flight have been working with the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's engineering product sustainment office, Youngstown State University, America Makes, the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining and the U.S. Marine Corps on developing and testing advanced manufacturing capabilities. The flight sees the printer acquisition as an opportunity to expand those partnerships and the research they're producing while developing potential Air Force capability enhancements.

Chief Master Sgt. Darin Wesoloski, fabrication flight chief for the 910th Maintenance Squadron, has been a champion of additive manufacturing technology at YARS since the beginning.

"This printer has the capability to print the world's strongest polymers, such as PEEK (Polyether Ether Ketone), which is widely regarded as the world's strongest thermoplastic, along with Ultem, which is what the Air Force has certified to be approved for the production of non-structural aircraft components," said Wesoloski.

So far, Wesoloski and his team have used desktop 3D printers to produce tools used in maintaining the 910th Airlift Wing's fleet of eight C-130H Hercules aircraft. They print prop sticks which are used to raise or lower the props of parked aircraft, replacing more expensive and wasteful water-jet cut phenolic prop sticks. They also use the technique to fabricate a nose landing gear door support tool. The tool prevents damage to the door during nose landing gear maintenance by preventing the aircraft door from resting on the ground.

Chief Master Sgt. Darin Wesoloski, superintendent of the Aircraft Fabrication flight, introduces his team of Reserve Citizen Airmen to Maj. Gen. John P. Healy, the commander of 22nd Air Force, here, March 7, 2020. Wesoloski discussed the technology and innovations being employed at YARS through additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, and its increasing role here.

Wesoloski says the new printer offers cutting edge capabilities that will allow his flight to fabricate repair parts that are unavailable or have extended lead times for organizations at YARS using the latest technology and ultra-strong, high-performance polymers.

The particular printer they're acquiring has not yet been certified by the Air Force, but YARS hopes to play a critical role in the process of AF certification.

"When the machine arrives at Youngstown, we will begin work with EZP Metals Technology program office to print test bars and begin the exciting process of certifying a new asset for the Air Force," said Wesoloski. "We'll work to ensure it has the capability and repeatability to produce components meeting strict tolerances and specifications in hopes to offer the Air force a more cost-effective alternative to the more expensive 3D printers currently being used by the Air Force."

The 910th Airlift Wing's mission statement is: Combat ready NOW...for tomorrow's fight!

The ability to repair critical assets quickly and on-location with existing tools and materials will bolster the 910th's ability to win the fights of tomorrow.

910TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON RECEIVES AFWERX FUNDING

Airman Chris Corso

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio—

The 910th Communications Squadron received AFWERX squadron innovation funds to aid in its mission. The fund granted the 910th CS $6,000 to upgrade storage and memory equipment in order to simulate the weapons platform that will be deployed by Mission Defense Teams.

"Our particular request was to support the upgrade to the training lab that we established for the Mission Defense Team which was a new mission that was assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing within the comm. squadron," explained Master Sgt. Jared Shuman, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 910th CS's Mission Defense Team.

MDTs defend the C-130H Hercules aircraft weapons system, reporting directly to the wing commander. They search for potential weaknesses and attacks on the network while performing the core functions of identifying, protecting, detecting, responding and recovering.

"The nice thing about it is that we're basically able to replicate the weapons system that we will be able to operate on, so our Airmen will be able to get a head start instead of waiting for the weapons platform to arrive," said Shuman.

When it comes to defending our nation, every advantage helps accomplish the mission. The additional funding will not only provide extra training to those serving now but create better, well-rounded Airmen in the future.

"We have a head start that enables us to gain months in the timeline to get training qualified on the weapons system prior to its arrival. That's a pretty significant advantage for us," said Shuman.

The 910th Communications Squadron looks to the future as it provides cyberspace operations through command, control and computer defense while deployed and in garrison. Since 2018, AFWERX squadron innovation funds have assisted countless Air Force squadrons in bettering their mission readiness.

910th AIRLIFT WING DEPLOYS AERIAL SPRAY CAPABILITY TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK IN IDAHO

An aerial spray team from Youngstown Air Reserve Station's 910th Airlift Wing helped control the spread of invasive cheatgrass and reduce the potential for wildfires on the Saylor Creek Range, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Sept. 20–26, 2020.

Q&As

What is cheatgrass?

Cheatgrass is an invasive weed that poses a severe wildfire risk to Saylor Creek Range, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

What is the 910th AW's aerial spray mission?

The 910th AW operates the DoD's only aerial spray capability to control invasive vegetation, eliminate disease-carrying insects and disperse oil spills in large bodies of water.

Why is cheatgrass a problem?

Cheatgrass spreads rapidly and poses a severe wildfire risk on the Saylor Creek Range where aircraft regularly train with explosive ordinance. Cheatgrass also overruns habitat for native plants that are essential for wildlife.

How did the 910th AW help?

The 910th AW deployed its DoD-unique aerial spray capability to treat 3050 acres of Saylor Creek Range land with more than 19 thousand gallons of herbicide that controls the spread of cheatgrass, reducing the risk of wildfires and enabling the safe recovery of training ordinance.

AIRMEN AT WORK

1.) Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Airlift Wing's Base Honor Guard perform a Prisoner Of War/ Missing In Action ceremony at the annual awards banquet here, March 7, 2020. The ceremony serves as a moment of remembrance to those who are not able to join in the night's celebrations. (Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

2.) Senior Airman Micaiah Walker, a loadmaster assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, prepares a C-130H Hercules aircraft for flight on Jan. 24, 2020, at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida. Loadmasters head out to the aircraft prior to takeoff to ensure the aircraft is properly configured for the cargo and or passengers that will be on board during the flight. (Senior Airman Christina Russo)

3.) Senior Airman Craig Johnson, a fireteam member assigned to the 910th Security Forces Squadron, checks ID cards, March 26, 2020, at Youngstown Air Reserve Station's entry gate. Due to coronavirus, YARS's security forces members are taking extra measures to protect themselves and installation personnel. (Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

4.) Master Sgt. Shawn Shaffer, a flight engineer instructor assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, conducts pre-flight checks in the flightdeck of a C-130H Hercules on the flightline at Youngstown Air Reserve Station on Jan. 12, 2020. The aircraft was set to fly in a four aircraft tactical airdrop exercise over Camp Garfield in Ravenna, Ohio. (Senior Airman Christina Russo)

5.) Firefighters from the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department connect a hose to a pump nozzle on a fire truck on the aircraft ramp of Youngstown Air Reserve Station, July 24, 2020, during a training event. (Eric M. White)

6.) Staff Sgt. Malik Flowers, a radio frequency transmission systems technician assigned to the 910th Communications Squadron, packs radio equipment for an upcoming mission to Jacksonville Florida, Jan. 11, 2019, at Youngstown Air Reserve Station. The 910th CS's Radio Frequency Section maintains the 910th Airlift Wing's very high frequency and ultra-high frequency radios mostly used for ground-to-ground contact. (Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

7.) Staff Sgt. Brandon Miller, a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technician with the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron at YARS and Ohio State Highway Patrolman at the Ashtabula post in Ohio, carries a few tools of his trade after completing a job in Hangar 305, Jan. 12, 2020. (Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi)

8.) Senior Airman Chuck Kunc and Tech. Sgt. Zachary Ford, air transportation specialists with the 76th Aerial Port Squadron, gather up a parachute on Camp Garfield's dropzone, July 12, 2020. Airmen from the 757th Airlift Squadron and the 76th Aerial Port Squadron were participating in cargo drop and drop zone training over the July unit training assembly. (Airman Chris Corso)

9.) From left, Col. Colleen E. Kelley, 910th Medical Squadron Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Regina Buckhalter, AFRC chief medical enlisted force manager, and Col. Teresa Bisnett, Air Force Reserve Command surgeon general, check the pupils of a trauma SimMan Sept. 12, 2020, at the 910th MDS building at Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Bisnett's visit to YARS was part of a tour to see all medical squadrons across the AFRC. (Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden)

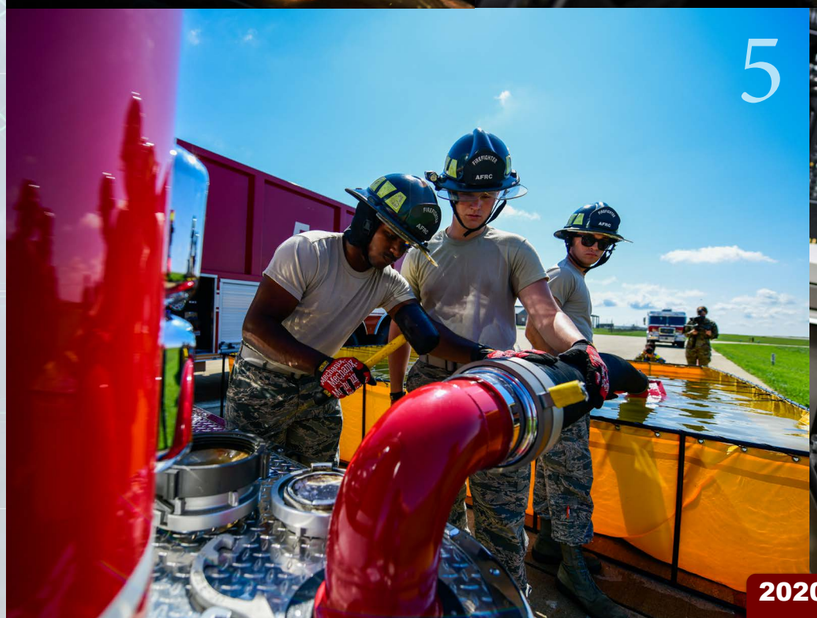
10.) Tech. Sgt. Andrew Trumbull, a fireteam leader assigned to the 910th Security Forces Squadron, fires a practice cartridge during a taser certification course, Sept. 12, 2020, Youngstown Air Reserve Station. The course provides Airmen an overview of how to use a taser and when the appropriate time to use a taser is. (Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

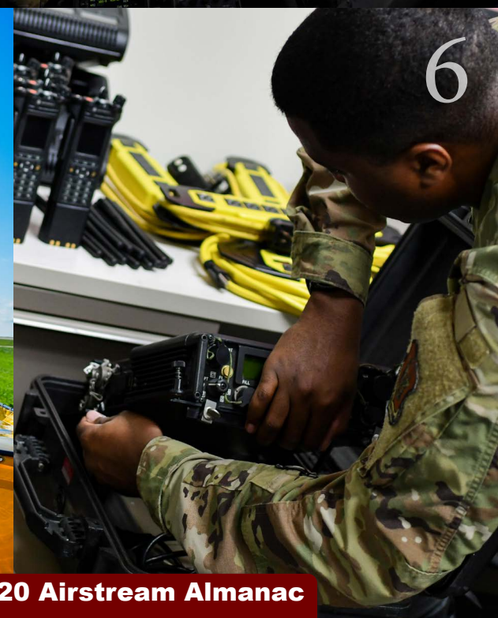
11.) Senior Airman Brandon Martinez, a biomedical equipment specialist with the 910th Medical Squadron, shoots an M-4 carbine downrange at the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance firing range, Aug. 1, 2020, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio. Medical professionals are required to qualify in combat arms every 36 months to remain mission ready. (Airman Chris Corso)

12.) Capt. Michael Sammartino, a pilot assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, copilots an aerial spray modified C-130H Hercules aircraft, Sept. 23, 2020, above Mountain Home Air Force Base's Saylor Creek Training Range, Idaho. The 910th Airlift Wing sprayed 19,979 gallons of diluted herbicide over 3,050 acres of the training range, Sept. 14–25, 2020. (Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

13.) A Rickenbacker Air National Guard firefighter radios commands to his team, Sept. 9, 2020, at Youngstown Air Reserve Station's firefighter training area, commonly called the "burn pit." About 40 Citizen Airmen from RANG's fire department came to YARS, Sept. 8-10, to do their annual live-fire training. (Senior Airman Noah J. Tancer)

14.) An Air Force Reserve Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist prepares to parachute out of the ramp of a C-130J Super Hercules near Charleston, West Virginia, Aug. 23, 2020. Eight C-130s and Reserve and Guard partners converged to participate in a week-long training event. (Senior Airman Nathan Byrnes)





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The 910th Airlift Wing's official mascot, Winger, is shown in this graphic illustration as he and Big Daddy, a B-52 Bomber based at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, talk about the 910th's unique aerial spray capability to eliminate countless mosquitoes that descended on the Pelican State in the aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta. From Oct. 20 through Nov. 1, 2020, a team of 85 Reserve Citizen Airmen, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, travelled to Barksdale to carry out mosquito control aerial spray operations in areas of southwest Louisiana devastated by the hurricanes. Working under AFNORTH and in conjunction with FEMA, 910th aircrews flying specially-modified C-130H Hercules aircraft and supported by a wide variety of Air Force specialties working as ground support treated more than 900,000 acres in less than two weeks to assist the citizens of Louisiana in storm recovery. (U.S. Air Force illustration/Senior Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.)

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

Combat ready NOW... for tomorrow's fight!