



2021 AIRSTREAM ALMANAC



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COMMANDER



Col. Jeff Van Dootingh

NOTICE

The 2021 Airstream Almanac is the eighth 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: Two loadmasters assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron wait for the weather call to restart their C-130H Hercules aircraft takeoff preparations during Operation Arizona Sunrise, Jan. 29, 2021, on the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona. The crew intended to conduct joint airborne/air transportability training for Operation Arizona Sunrise but were weathered out at the last minute. Under a distributed operations concept, five C-130s and more than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing traveled to Southern Arizona, Jan. 24-30, 2021, for the 757th AS's annual flyaway. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden)

IN THE BACKGROUND: A 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft from Youngstown Air Reserve Station flies lead in a two-ship formation over the Mazatzal and Superstition Mountains for Operation Arizona Sunrise, Jan. 27, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer)

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WING COMMAND CHIEF

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WINGER

THE 910TH AIRLIFT WING'S OFFICIAL
MASCOT, WINGER, IS DEPICTED WITH
TAILWIND, CHIEF FUZZ AND THE
GULFPORT BUG



Look for this icon throughout the almanac for stories that have video components on our public website at www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil

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



WING AND GROUP LEADERS



Col. Jeff Van Dootingham
910th Airlift Wing
Commander



Col. Casey Dodds
910th Airlift Wing
Vice Commander



Chief Master Sgt.
Jennifer McKendree
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



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





Col. Jeff Van Dootingh
910th Airlift Wing Commander

Calendar year 2021 presented the men and women of the 910th Airlift Wing with truly unprecedented challenges. To name just a few, consider budget and pay uncertainty, the Afghanistan withdrawal, a civil service hiring freeze, and an unrelenting global pandemic along with its corresponding vaccination mandate. Yet the resilience of our Airmen—whether full-time technician, traditional Reservist, civil service, AGR, or contractor—enabled us to safely accomplish our mission despite threats unlike anything we have seen before. And although it would be easy to dwell on the seemingly never-ending challenges of 2021, I want to ensure we don't lose sight of all our successes.

To start with, we were selected as the host site for AFRC's Integrated Defense Leadership Course (IDLC). Working with our joint partners at Camp Garfield, we designed and implemented the first-of-its-kind training scenario to provide security forces from across all AFRC realistic, hands-on battlefield experience in a Highly Contested Environment over the course of fifteen days.

We also hosted Lt. Gen. Scobee, Chief of the Air Force Reserve Command and Commander of the Air Force Reserve, and Chief Master Sgt. White, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve and Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Reserve Command, along with Mrs. Scobee and Mrs. White. In conjunction with this DV visit, we hosted the resumption of the Air Force Reserve Command's Diversity and Inclusion program manager and implementer training after the training was sidelined for eighteen months by the COVID pandemic.

In the short time since the vaccine mandate, we rapidly implemented a comprehensive plan and successfully vaccinated over 91% of our wing. Noteworthy is that our medical and leadership teams accomplished this feat in only three UTAs (six days)! This accomplishment involved overcoming numerous obstacles and required a huge effort from our chaplains, medical professionals, JAGs, senior enlisted leaders, and commanders.

We also continued to focus on developing resilient Airmen and leaders. We provided "lunch & learn" opportunities and sent members to Gettysburg for a leadership laboratory. The 910th was selected as one of only eight wings to participate in a beta test program to optimize tools designed to make our Airmen's lives better and to capture needed metrics to improve our Key Spouse Program. Our helping organizations remain steadfast in their passion to help all Airmen navigate these difficult times.

Despite the fiscal challenges we faced, our leadership team remained engaged and worked collaboratively to make adjustments where necessary. We never lost sight of our duty to organize, train, and equip Airmen to go into harm's way. To date, we have mobilized and deployed—or prepared to mobilize—hundreds of wing members for operations around the globe. Their service makes us proud.

As if all that wasn't enough, your efforts and diligence in maintaining operational capabilities while faced with the adversities of COVID-19, as well as numerous additional wing-wide accomplishments, culminated with the 910th being awarded the inaugural 22nd Air Force Battle Born trophy.

Going forward, we will continue to be guided by our Mission, Vision, and Priorities—MVPs we purposefully and strategically aligned to help us make decisions on goals, budgets, training plans, resource allocation, manning plans, and so forth. As a reminder, please review our MVPs below:

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

Support and encourage the readiness, professional development, and personal resilience of ALL 910th Airmen.

Ensure the 910th is ready to execute its primary mission in-garrison or supporting Air Expeditionary Forces; at any time.

Take calculated risk in the stewardship of scarce resources to ensure effective and efficient mission accomplishment.

And remember, anything we cannot connect to one of these priorities is waste and should be eliminated.

In summary, despite a difficult year where we faced one crisis after another, we remain a cohesive and resilient wing. Using a thoughtful and measured approach, we met every challenge and worked through them together. As we prepare to navigate what will likely be another year filled with challenges, I need your help to ensure we make informed critical resourcing decisions. Communicate your concerns and recommendations through your chain of command. I value your candor and perspective—and I need your feedback.

I will close by thanking you for your service and for all you do for this incredible wing, our Air Force, and our country. It is truly an honor to serve with you!



Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer McKendree
910th Airlift Wing Command Chief

As the year 2021 closes, taking time to pause and reflect on the previous year can assist us in moving forward while recognizing our accomplishments, learning from our failures, and healing from what we have lost. Our life experiences present opportunities for us to learn, grow, and support others by sharing our experiences. As each year passes and we navigate our lives—family, civilian, military, student, to name a few—know that we always have each other to lean on. Seeking harmony, rather than trying to keep balance in the multiple lines of responsibility in our lives brings a little different perspective. What is your guiding word for 2022? Mine is REVIVE—restore to life or consciousness—I believe I can apply that word on multiple levels!

We go into 2022 hitting the ground running with over 100 personnel deploying and many already in place. We will have another year full of events and opportunities—be ready!

CMSAF JoAnne Bass recently released the Enlisted Force Development Action Plan 2022-2023, recognizing our diverse backgrounds, and the key to our success lies in the development of YOU—our Airmen! This Action Plan is in line with Accelerate Change or Lose. Key highlights include:

COMPETITION-FOCUSED FORCE

We must look beyond the lines of Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) and elevate our mission across the force through command relationships, connections amongst our teams, and a unified purpose.

FRONT-LINE LEADER DEVELOPMENT

Leadership is a team sport. We must clearly define shared expectations and standards to break down stovepipes of learning and increase combined development opportunities.

TEAMING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Airmen must have the opportunity to experiment, prototype, and explore opportunities within the boundaries of risk to advance solutions to shape mission execution. Additionally, Airmen must be given the opportunity to fail and learn, building confidence and proficiency in warfighting skills to ensure decisive wins in future fights.

RESILIENCE IS FOUNDATIONAL TO READINESS

We must create a rooted sense of trust, belonging, and connection amongst all Airmen to foster healthy relationships that recharge spiritual, social, mental, physical, and financial fitness. This starts with self-awareness, empathy, and a fundamental appreciation for one another.

FORCE DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM

In order to succeed in the 21st Century fight, our people need an interconnected development system to support continual growth, when, where, and how they need it. Development must be agile and Airmen-centered to keep up with the fast-paced and ever-changing operational environment.

SYSTEMS TO MATCH VALUES

We must continue to push through barriers, design new approaches and cut through layers of unnecessary bureaucracy. If it's not value added, it's time to say goodbye!

As we are guided in our development and by our MVPs, 2022 will still bring it's challenges and disappointments but also great success—we will face them all together, with purpose and intent.

It is the greatest honor of my career to serve here with you as your Command Chief! Please don't hesitate to chat if you see me out and about. Stop by, send ideas my way! One final word for this year: Ubuntu: I am Because We Are.

In support,



THE BATTLE BORN

B U I L T A N D W O N

Story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

The 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's fabrication flight was tasked by the 22nd Air Force to build the inaugural Battle Born Trophy to be presented to the 22nd Air Force unit that best represents the commander's priority of "Readiness Now" during the previous year. The flight's response was a 100-percent in-house additive manufactured and scaled-down version of the original trophy.

"A previous MXG (910th Maintenance Group) commander, Col. Sharon Johnson, who is now the director of staff at 22nd, knows our capability and knows our willingness to help wherever needed," said Chief Master Sgt. Darin Wesoloski, fabrication flight chief assigned to the 910th AMXS. "She put the bug in their ear down there (Dobbins Air Reserve Base) that it would be a good idea to hit us up, see what we can do and challenge our abilities with additive manufacturing."

The Battle Born Trophy was created by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce in partnership with 22nd AF to highlight the relationship between the Air Force Reserve, the Cobb Chamber and the local community and to honor 22nd AF's past. 22nd AF began as the Domestic Division, Air Corps Ferrying Command, established on Dec. 28, 1941, Washington D.C.

"So it came to us, and of course we don't back down from a challenge or request," said Wesoloski. "So I got with Jim (Tech. Sgt. Jim Phillis Jr., aircraft metals tech craftsman with the 910th AMXS), we took a look at all the drawings, we contacted Col. Goldstein down there, the point of contact with the trophy shop, and they provided us with blueprints on what they were making. It wasn't clear on what we were supposed to do whether we're to duplicate theirs or do a variation. So we just went ahead and scaled their existing trophy that was being built down there and reproduced it here."

The Battle Born Trophy will be awarded each July by the Cobb Chamber to the 22nd AF unit that best represents the commander's "Readiness

Now" priority. The original trophy, which will stay in the trophy room at 22nd AF, was cast out of aluminum at a trophy shop in the Dobbins ARB local community.

"I talked to (22nd AF Commander Maj. Gen. John Healy) when he was here and asked him what it cost him to get the trophy made downtown," said Wesoloski. "The trophy shop donated the materials and the time but if you were to put a price tag on it he said it was in the thousands. The trophy we did, we probably had an hour-and-a-half of actual manhour time on it, and then with the material cost we were probably sitting at around 18 dollars."

Seen as a valuable training opportunity and chance to show off the Youngstown Air Reserve Station's innovation, the replica was rendered by Phillis and Brock Elsea, a mechanical engineer with the base civil engineers, using computer software and printed in five pieces on an AON-M2

High-Temperature Industrial 3D Printer.

"We printed that out, sanded it down, glued it together, you know get everything smoothed out, and then we used metallic spray paint to try and mimic the aluminum," said Phillis. "It's not exactly apples-to-apples. Once again, I haven't seen what their finished product would look like, but it's a trophy shop. It'll probably be a really nice trophy. Ours is a smaller version of that and obviously made out of different materials."

Out of the 13 units under the 22nd AF, the 910th Airlift Wing was selected to create the first scaled trophy and then was coincidentally awarded the inaugural Battle Born Trophy. The 910th AW name will forever be engraved onto the first placard spot of the Battle Born Trophy and the fabrication shop replica will return home for display.

"We built it, and then Maj. Gen. Healy came up for Col. Van Dootingh's (910th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Jeff Van Dootingh) change of command ceremony," said Wesoloski. "So for a practical joke, we had it done and made the placard for the front of it saying that we won.

We met Gen. Healy up in the wing commander's conference room and, as a joke, we had it on the table all covered up and we presented it to him to hand back to us saying that we won, as a joke. Well the joke was, we come to find out, last night my Facebook blew up. Chief McKendree (910th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer McKendree) and Col. Van Dootingh went down for the ceremony and they hit me up and said we won. So we did it as a joke, but we actually won it."

The Air Force Instruction that governs the inaugural BBT award dictates that whoever won this year is responsible for making next year's trophy. So though the 910th AW made the initial base award, they won, so now they in turn have to make a second trophy which will be sent down to the 22nd AF to be presented to next year's honoree.

"We learned after we made this one that you can make it unique as long as it falls in line with the basic concept," said Phillis. "So the one that we make for next year, because we did win this year, is gonna be a variation. It's not going to be an exact replica every year. Whoever wins next year will be presented with the trophy we make this year which in turn whoever that winner is will make the trophy for the next year's winner."

The 910th Airlift Wing has been pursuing additive manufacturing methods for several years, offering an advanced means of creating the trophy. Other units may use other manufacturing methods for creating the award in subsequent years.

"It doesn't have to be 3D-printed, it could have been made out of wood, it could have been made out of sheet metal, it could have been made out of steel, it's up to whatever base is making it to determine the process that they want to make it," said Wesoloski. "We did it additive because that's the easiest, cheapest and most cost-effective way to do it."

With continuing advancements in technology, innovation in training and strong partnerships between YARS and the local community, the 910th AW has not only made but earned its trophy and place at the forefront of the Air Force Reserve's additive manufacturing program.



IDLC

INTEGRATED DEFENSE LEADERSHIP COURSE

Photos by Eric M. White

Air Force Reserve Command launched the Integrated Defense Leadership Course in 2021. Based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station and using Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Camp's facilities, the two-week-long IDLC is designed to provide Reserve defenders with intensely focused hands-on training to achieve and maintain combat readiness.



Senior Airman Nathan Seeman, a Defender with the 482nd SFS based at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, and Staff Sgt. Bradley Fisher, a Defender with the 910th SFS, load dye-marker rounds into their M4 carbine magazines, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



Senior Airman Jhonson Cinevert, a member of the 482nd Security Forces Squadron based at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, moves through a live-fire training scenario, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



Tech. Sgt. Ben Telschow, NCO in charge of training with the 710th Security Forces Squadron and IDLC cadre member, teaches Air Force Reserve security forces Airmen about small and large-opening danger area crossings during a battle drills workshop July 21, 2021, at YARS.



Defenders move through a live-fire training scenario to engage opposing force members, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



IDLC cadre members observe security forces students running a live-fire training scenario from an observation platform, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



Master Sgt. Chris Boley, a Defender with the 445th SFS, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, returns blank fire to an assaulting force during an area security operations exercise, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



Staff Sgt. Alyssa Raines, a Defender with the 442nd Security Forces Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, scans her surroundings for opposing forces during a static defense exercise, July 22, 2021, at CJAG.



720th SFS Defender Senior Airman Richard York retreats through smoke from an assaulting force during an area security operations exercise at CJAG.



Staff Sgt. Kendrea Brown and Senior Airman Joshua Fitzpatrick, Defenders with the 315th SFS, escort Senior Airman Richard York, a member of the 720th SFS during an area security operations exercise at CJAG.



315th Defender Senior Airman Larissa Taylor holds a defensive position during an area security operations exercise at CJAG, July 22, 2021.



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Hatton, 442nd SFS Defender, reloads his M4 carbine during a blank round firefight with opposing forces during a static defense exercise at CJAG, July 22, 2021.



A 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft equipped with a modular aerial spray system sprays water as part of a field exercise designed to measure the effectiveness of an aerial spray application, May 6, 2021.

910TH ENTOMOLOGISTS CONDUCT AERIAL SPRAY APPLICATION COURSE

Story and Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.

A team of medical entomologists assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's 757th Airlift Squadron hosted a group of more than 20 pest management specialists from across the Department of Defense at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio for the Aerial Spray Application Course, May 3-6, 2021.

Coursework included classroom briefings covering a variety of subjects related to aerial spray application as well as an orientation flight aboard a C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft modified to carry a Modular

Aerial Spray System. A field exercise using water-sensitive paper designed to measure the effectiveness of an aerial spray application by a MASS-equipped C-130H Hercules aircraft spraying water was conducted on the last day of the course.

Lead course facilitator, 757th Airlift Squadron Chief Entomologist Lt. Col. Karl Haagsma, said that upon completion of the course, participants are certified to coordinate aerial spray applications of insecticides or herbicides at their respective military installations across the country.

Haagsma also noted that with years of field experience in aerial spray application, the 910th's team of entomologists are professionally qualified to conduct the DoD Aerial Spray Application Course.

The 910th is home to the DoD's only large-area fixed-wing aerial spray capability to control disease-carrying insects, pest insects and undesirable vegetation and disperse oil spills in large bodies of water on DoD installations, in combat areas or in response to disasters and emergencies as declared by the president of the United States.



Lt. Col. Jennifer Remmers, a medical entomologist with the 757th Airlift Squadron, uses an anemometer to take a wind speed measurement prior to the field exercise, May 6, 2021.



Spots appear where water has landed on a piece of water-sensitive paper used during the field exercise. The paper helps determine dispersal patterns, May 6, 2021.



OPERATION ARIZONA SUNRISE

Story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

The dark blue sky begins to lighten. The dawning light reveals hazy clouds passing lazily on the breeze, skiing down from snowy mountaintops and out across the open planes. An out-of-season chill clings to the air. The sun brings some warmth as the mountainous peaks guide its way into the sky, all painting the backdrop for the beginning of Operation Arizona Sunrise.

The 757th Airlift Squadron held its annual flyaway in Southern Arizona, Jan. 24–30, 2021, supported by the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Under a distributed operations concept, five C-130H Hercules aircraft and more than 100 Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing were split between two mission cells located in Tucson and Yuma, Arizona.

The main training focuses were joint airborne/air transportability training through high-altitude low open jump routes more than 15,000 feet above the ground at Yuma and low-fly tactical routes with simulation cargo drops in Tucson. Then, an aircraft from each location would meet in the air above the mountains each day for two-ship flight formations.

Capt. Nick Bargiband is the chief of operations assigned to the 910th Operations Support Squadron and served as one of two mission commanders for the operation.

"This mission, we dropped a variety of paratrooper teams," said Bargiband. "It's a hard training for us to stay current on with Northeast Ohio's naturally low cloud ceilings, let alone the winter temperatures this time of year.

Arizona wasn't only chosen for its clear skies and warm weather, but for its geological difference from the landscape around Youngstown Air Reserve Station where the unit typically trains. Flying and performing tactical sorties over varied terrain helps 910th Airmen remain "Combat ready NOW... for tomorrow's fight!" as the wing's mission statement goes.

Staff Sgt. Solomon Walker, a flight engineer assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron, prepares a C-130H Hercules aircraft for takeoff on Jan. 29, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden)



A 910th C-130 taxis for takeoff from Pinal Airpark, Arizona, to conduct low-fly tactical routes, simulation cargo drops and a two-ship formation, Jan. 27, 2021. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.)



Tech. Sgt. Tim Kantorak, a 757th AS loadmaster, awaits the weather call to restart C-130 aircraft takeoff preparations, Jan. 29, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden)



757th AS pilot 2nd Lt. Brad Hutchison copilots a C-130H Hercules aircraft in a two-aircraft formation over the Mazatzal and Superstition Mountains Jan. 27, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer)

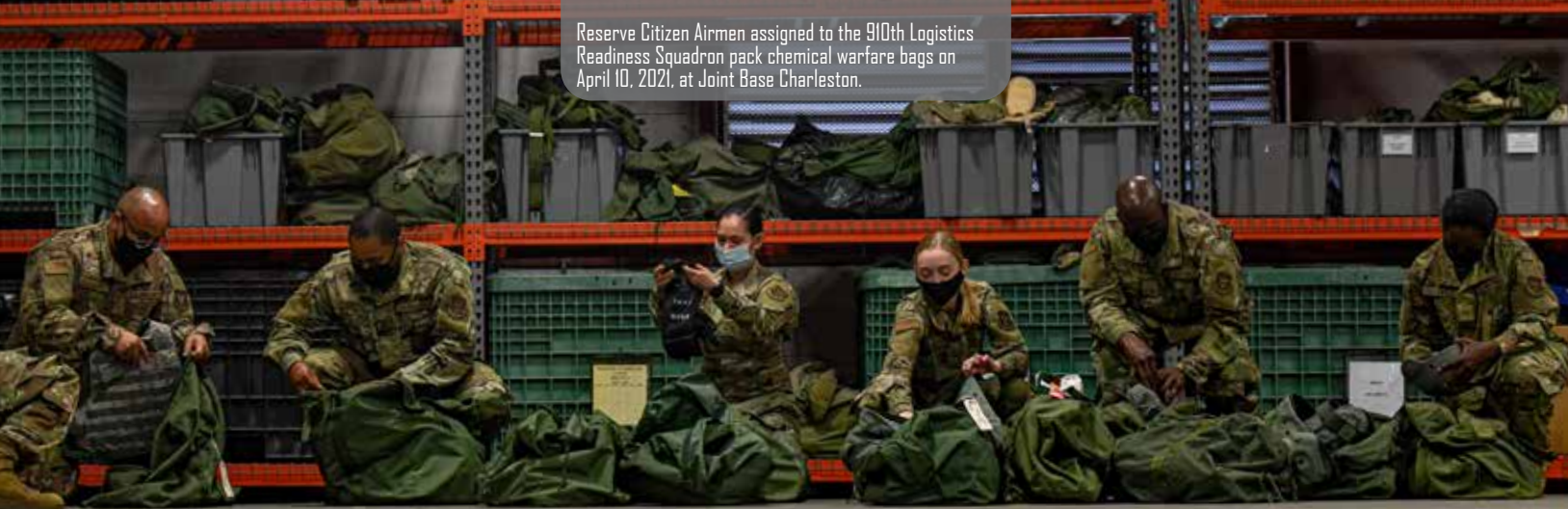


757th AS navigator 1st Lt. Pete Musselman helps spot direction adjustment landmarks from a C-130 aircraft breaking away from a two-ship formation, Jan. 27, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer)



A C-130H Hercules aircraft waits to take off from the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona, to conduct joint airborne/air transportability training, Jan. 29, 2021. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden)

Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron pack chemical warfare bags on April 10, 2021, at Joint Base Charleston.



ALWAYS TRAINING, ALWAYS READY TO FIGHT

Photos and story by Senior Airman Christina Russo

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C.—

More than 50 Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron traveled to Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, April 8–11, 2021, to conduct training on an active duty installation.

To remain combat-ready, training is key. That's why the men and women at Youngstown Air Reserve Station pride themselves on always being ready to fight.

Practicing deployment processing and core task training were the primary goals of the trip, said Senior Master Sgt. Marc See, fuels superintendent with the 910th LRS.

For Senior Airman Victoria Russo, a fuels

distribution Airman with the 910th LRS, this was her first opportunity to travel with her unit and train in such an environment.

"It was definitely a new experience for me," said Russo. "As well as being there with my senior leadership really aided in my training."

As reservists, readiness at all levels is vital to the overall mission. No matter if an Airman is new to the total force or if they've been in for 20 years, training is essential.

"The importance of our readiness at all times and the continuity with active duty to fulfill a mission at any location is important to the Air Force mission," said See.

Coming together as a total force to prepare for

future deployments is a crucial aspect in ensuring procedures conducted during training events are beneficial to Airmen.

"As a new Airman returning home from technical training, I was super excited to get to travel with my squadron to train on an active duty location," said Russo. "We don't always get to train on various aircraft, so opportunities like this help prepare Airmen like me and others to be ready to deploy one day."

Increasing unity and morale along with practicing deployment readiness is what prepares Airmen to fight when the time comes.

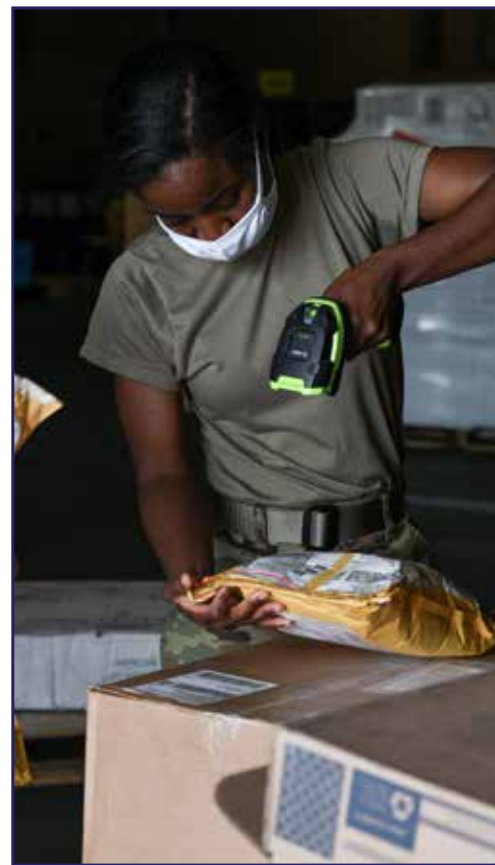


Senior Airman Victoria Russo, a 910th LRS fuels distribution Airman, moves a liquid oxygen tank on April 9, 2021, at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.



Leadership and Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 910th Logistics Readiness Squadron pose for a photo on April 10, 2021.

Senior Airman James Palermo from the 910th LRS and Senior Airman Jacob Glasser and Airman 1st Class Jesse Mayo from the 628th LRS, all fuels distribution Airmen, fill liquid oxygen tanks, April 9, 2021.



Senior Airman Bernice Agyepong, a logistics Airman with the 910th LRS, scans packages on April 9, 2021. Agyepong traveled with her unit to JB Charleston to conduct training at an active duty installation to ensure they remain combat-ready.

FLIGHT COMMANDER'S EDGE FINDS SUCCESS VIA SUB-VIRTUAL FORMAT

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

With the finish line in sight, you don't stop, you double down.

As COVID-19 vaccines become more available to the public and the overall case numbers decline, more Airmen are seeing the finish line, and yet Centers for Disease Control and Department of Defense physical distancing guidelines and mask wear policies are still in play. The race isn't over, but the 910th Airlift Wing is still innovating to stay ahead.

At the forefront of the Air Force's "Accelerate Change or Lose" concept, the 910th has pioneered several distributed operations concepts in the field to maintain currency while mitigating COVID-19 risk. Youngstown Air Reserve Station, while overcoming COVID restrictions, adapted and successfully improved the 910th AW's third annual Flight Commander's Edge Air University course, Feb. 18-21, 2021.

"Before COVID, we taught the course in a large group format," said Capt. Jamila Thomas, a clinical nurse assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron and the lead coordinator for this year's FCE. "But now we've found out from the students and mentors that the sub-virtual way apparently provides a better learning environment. With a few modifications, this may be the way it's taught even after COVID restrictions are gone."

Determined to grow, 910th AW Reserve Citizen Airmen came together through a sub-virtual format, mixing small group in-person discussion and large group virtual learning to efficiently balance a personable learning environment and COVID-19 risk mitigation. Presenters worked in a separate room in pre-scheduled blocks of time to limit path crossing.

"We had six rooms with six students and two mentors each, save for one room with seven students," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Fisher, the cyber systems superintendent assigned to the 910th Communications Squadron and lead producer of this year's sub-virtual FCE, "then a seventh room for presenters to talk and answer questions live on Microsoft Teams. It's not a full-proof format, and it was only meant for this year, but with some tweaks, it could be the future way of doing the course."

The FCE is a three-and-a-half-day course taught on-station. The AU lesson plan is intended to be easy enough to follow with little or no teaching experience required. Few other bases teach it, and some don't even know about it. It is intended for master sergeants and above and company-grade officers; however, the attending ranks and class curriculum may be modified by commanders to better meet the goal of strengthening the squadron.

"Great leadership is a relay; sooner or later you've got to pass the baton," said Thomas. "The Flight Commander's Edge course is one of the most beneficial Air University courses available to up-and-coming leaders. So much so that we changed the whole way of teaching it so we wouldn't miss

this year's. It's a sadly underrated course."

The FCE is unique to other AU courses in that the presenters, mentors and coordinators, with the exception of a few guest speakers, are all facilitated in-house by the student's peers, leaders and other base personnel. With the small group format, coordinators tried to separate co-workers where they could. The idea was to prevent workplace niches in the groups, let the students take their ranks off and encourage networking and collaboration with others they normally wouldn't interact with. That idea, along with the virtual ability to mute groups during small group discussion, ended up being key improvements to the course as it didn't allow groups to overpower or interrupt each other.

"It gives the class a much more comfortable and personal feeling," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Depamphilis, a commander support staff member assigned to the 910th AW, and a coordination volunteer with the FCE. "With this year's virtual environment, we found smaller groups were able to learn faster and on a more intimate level, than a traditional classroom style."

YARS's FCE curriculum included blocks on:

The role of the flight commander, preparing for command, discipline, non-judicial punishment, Uniform Code of Military Justice, emotional intelligence, conflict management, retention, followership, taking care of Airmen resiliency, developing full-range leadership, building and busting teams, leading change, DISC assessment, time and meeting management, developing others, taking care of families, mission command in leadership, ethical leadership/difficult conversations, senior-leader perspective and the road ahead.

Guest speakers, in order of attendance, were: Jim Tressel, president of Youngstown State University and honorary 910th Airlift Wing commander; retired Col. Dan Sarachene, a member of the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission and former commander of the 910th AW; and Len Petrancosta, the COO of Peak Performance Management and a DISC coach.

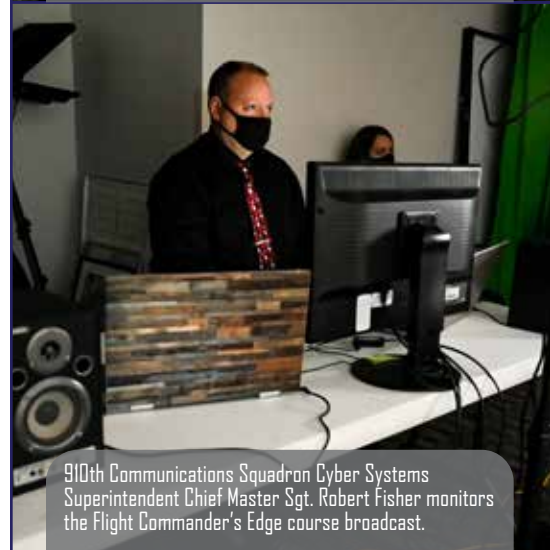
Lt. Col. Karen Gharst, commander of the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, attended the course in preparation of introducing it at her installation.

"Teaching this force development course is a direct reflection of the solid culture and leadership of this wing," said Gharst. "I will be able to benchmark dozens of great ideas from Youngstown's FCE committee and would personally like to thank Lt. Col. Jeff Shaffer and Capt. Jamila Thomas for helping us set-up our course. I'm so thankful for the provided resources, lessons learned and overall opportunity to observe this week."

Upon completion of the course, certificates of completion were provided to studentss squadron commanders to present to the graduate.



Col. Joe Janik, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, gives a live Flight Commander's Edge presentation through a Microsoft Teams meeting, Feb. 21, 2021.



910th Communications Squadron Cyber Systems Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Robert Fisher monitors the Flight Commander's Edge course broadcast.



Flight Commander's Edge's students watch a live presentation on the senior leadership perspective from multiple buildings across YARS.



Maj. Gen. John Healy, commander of 22nd Air Force, and Col. Jeff Van Dootingh, incoming commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, stand at attention between the flags for the singing of the national anthem and presentation of the colors during the 910th AW assumption of command ceremony on June 6, 2021

VAN DOOTINGH COMES HOME TO COMMAND 910TH

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

The Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 910th Airlift Wing welcomed back Col. Jeff “VD” Van Dootingh as the unit’s 28th commander during an assumption of command ceremony, June 6, 2021, at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

Nearly 17 years of Van Dootingh’s 36-year Air Force career was spent at YARS. He served as the 757th Airlift Squadron C-130H standardization/evaluation navigator from 1991 to 2000, the 910th Operations Group chief of current operations from 2000 to 2005 and the 910th Operations Group deputy commander from 2005 to 2008.

Thirteen years later, Van Dootingh now holds the 910th AW flag and bears the responsibilities it represents.

Maj. Gen. John Healy, 22nd Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony.

“One thing that stands out about VD is his commitment to family, and while we’ve spoken extensively about his family in his home life, I believe what makes VD such an effective leader all these years is the fact that he takes the military as part of his family as well,” said Healy. “While every commander acknowledges the importance of taking care of those serving under you, VD truly backs this up with his actions...VD has been a trusted resource and adviser, and his reputation for people first has preceded him wherever he’s gone.”

The change/assumption of command ceremony is rooted in military history dating back to the 18th-century reign of King Frederick the Great of Prussia. During that time, organizational flags were developed with colors and symbols unique to each military unit. The soldiers of the unit would dedicate their loyalty and trust to their commander, symbolized by the commander’s

flag. When a change in leadership occurred, the individual assuming command would accept the unit’s flag in front of the unit so all could witness their new leader assuming the dutiful position.

“To the men and women of the 910th Airlift Wing, boy it’s good to be home,” said Van Dootingh. “It’s my honor to take over and serve you and serve with you. I’m anxious to get busy, and I just want to lay out a couple things of where I want us to focus our efforts as I take command so that we take the 910th to the next level. Number one, without any doubt, not even close second, I want to take care of Airmen and their families. After we do that, I want to get after full-spectrum readiness so that we’re ready to answer our nation’s call any time, any day, and go do whatever our nation asks of us. Then third, I want to innovate, innovate, because budgets are only gonna get tighter, and what we are expected to do for our nation is not going to decrease. So we have to figure out how we’re going to do that with tight budgets and perhaps less resources.”

The 910th Airlift Wing mission statement is, “Combat ready NOW...for tomorrow’s fight!” The 910th Airlift Wing vision statement is, “Maximize our combat capabilities...Delivering decisive tactical airlift, aerial spray and agile combat support!” The 910th AW maintains the Department of Defense’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. Aerial spray is the second of the Air Force Reserve Command’s three special missions Van Dootingh has commanded, having served as the 403rd Wing commander in charge of the Hurricane Hunters, the only operational unit

in the world flying weather reconnaissance on a routine basis.

“I’ll tell you a little story,” said Van Dootingh. “When I went to the Air Force Academy, one of the most frequently asked questions of cadets of each other is, ‘hey, when we graduate and get commissioned as lieutenants, how long do you plan on staying in the Air Force?’ And my answer then is still my answer today. I plan on staying in as long as I’m having fun, and I am. I just love what I do. What makes it worthwhile are Airmen. They show up to work. They want to serve their country. They’re just dedicated professionals. They’re patriotic and I just feel like I owe them my best every single day. They are what makes coming to work worthwhile.”

Van Dootingh was commissioned in 1985 upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. A 1986 distinguished graduate of undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California, he served more than six years on active duty as an instructor navigator and flight safety officer before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1991. As a traditional reservist, he served as a standardization/evaluation navigator while working as a chemist until 1995 when he became a dual-status Air Reserve Technician. Since that time, he has held diverse positions including chief of current operations, flying squadron director of operations, numbered Air Force director of staff, operations group commander, wing commander and headquarters division chief.

Previous 910th AW commander Col. Joe Janik continues his AFRC career as commander of the 439th Airlift Wing at Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts.

Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001? For a long time, that was a question that united people in remembering that tragic day in United States history. Now that 20 years have passed, this question has lost relevance to young people. Many Airmen serving today were either too young

to remember or not even born yet. The 910th Airlift Wing held a 20th Anniversary 9/11 ceremony to reflect on the events of that day, to remember those who lost their lives and to help educate Airmen who have no memories of this event that changed the nation forever.

WHY WE REMEMBER: 20th ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden



Col. Jeff Van Dootingh, 910th Airlift Wing commander, speaks to Airmen and key spouses during the 910th Airlift Wing's 20th Anniversary 9/11 Ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021



Airmen assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron and 910th Security Forces Squadron raise the American flag during the 910th's 20th Anniversary 9/11 Ceremony.

With a light breeze and the sun shining through the scattered clouds in the sky, 910th AW Commander Col. Jeff Van Dootingh walked to the podium overlooking the flag detail made up of base firefighters and security forces members selected to honor those in their profession who made the ultimate sacrifice on that day in September.

“Twenty years ago today, September 11th fell on a Tuesday, and the weather was eerily, perfectly identical to what we have today,” said Van Dootingh. “Twenty years ago today, most of the Airmen who joined our ranks were not even born yet. Twenty years ago today, the unbelievable, the unthinkable, became a reality. Twenty years ago today, America came together as she has only done a very few times in our entire history. And on that day, 20 years ago today, we saw both the absolute worst and the absolute best the human race has to offer. And thus, it is only right and fitting that we pause today to educate and to remember the events of that tragic day.”

Van Dootingh’s thoughts on an educational angle to the 9/11 ceremony were shared with many, including the event coordinator, Maj. Scott Allen, 910th AW chief of public affairs.

“Winston Churchill stated, ‘Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it,’” said Allen. “The 9/11 Ceremony was a great example of that point, and we need to teach people what happened that day and why we can never forget.”

One of the Airmen on the flag detail for the ceremony falls into the category of those too young to remember Sept. 11, 2001.

“September 11th is a moment in time that we really need to understand and recognize the importance of that day since I was not around to experience the event firsthand,” said Senior Airman Josh Rohrbach, a fire team member for the 910th Security Forces Squadron. “When I was a kid, my whole class made paper cranes for a student whose uncle was a firefighter in New York City and died in the attack. That was my first personal connection to 9/11, and it made the tragedy feel closer to home. Learning about what the 9/11 responders did that day was a very humbling experience. They didn’t know what they were going into, they didn’t know some of them would never make it out and they didn’t know how their family and friends would be affected for years. They were simply doing their jobs, running into action and not thinking twice. I have an immense amount of respect for the first responders knowing they could be tasked to do something similar at any time.”

Another Airman who attended the ceremony was filled with emotion on hearing the last phone calls victims of 9/11 made to their loved ones.

“It was hard to hear the last phone calls made by people who knew they were dying,” said Airman First Class Lily Vild, a medical technician assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron. “Putting yourself in the shoes of those people, it is pretty terrifying.”

Vild also reflected on the importance of remembering those who died on that day and those who perished later on as a consequence of 9/11.

“A lot of people died and risked their lives that day,” said Vild. “It is super important to remember anyone whose lives have been lost. Many lives were lost because of that moment, not just then, but now as well. Being in the military makes you realize your place in that event. I consider the military my family, and my family risks their lives, and we must always remember it.”

Senior Airman Frank Zamlen, an aerospace propulsion specialist assigned to the 910th Maintenance Squadron, was just a baby wrapped in his mother’s arms while watching the terrorist attack happening live on television.

“The anniversary of September 11th reminds us that there is evil out there and to stay vigilant, because history can repeat itself,” said Zamlen.

Though there is much sadness surrounding the tragedy that occurred 20 years ago on September 11, Zamlen also sees it as a time of great unity in the United States.

“When I think of September 11th, I think of the day after, when we were more united than ever,” said Zamlen. “We all had something in common, a reason to come together.”

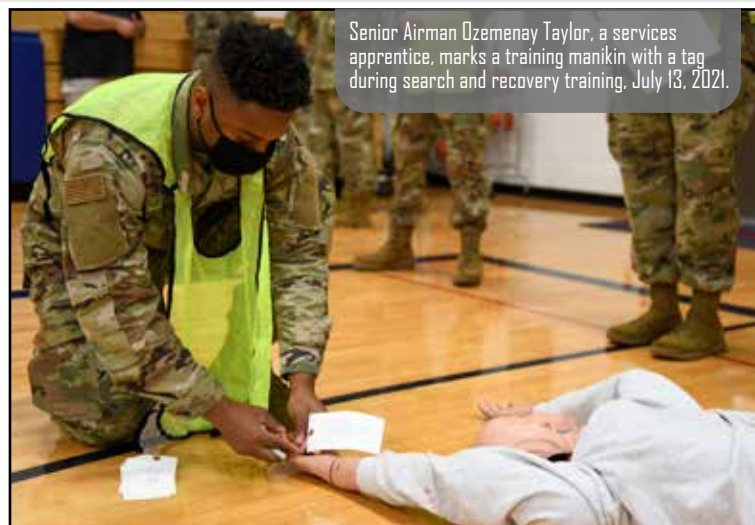
The 910th Airlift Wing is one of many organizations around the nation standing united in honor and remembrance of 9/11.

ANNUAL TOUR HELPS 910th's SERVICES SECTION HONE READINESS

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer



Staff Sgt. Devonte Winston, Staff Sgt. Matthew Wise and Senior Airman Ozemenay Taylor mark and bag a discovery during search and recovery training.



Senior Airman Ozemenay Taylor, a services apprentice, marks a training manikin with a tag during search and recovery training, July 13, 2021.



Senior Airman Amari Holden, Tech. Sgt. Monica White and Airman 1st Class Joseph Sullivan organize and catalogue supplies from the services section's storage facility.



Members of the 910th's services section stock shelves with Meals, Ready-to-Eat boxes at the unit's storage facility, July 14, 2021.



Airman Gabriell Radvilavicius, Senior Airman Jayaira Grhimharvey and Tech. Sgt. Angel Bartee organize and catalogue supplies from the unit's storage facility.

910TH MDS ROLLS OUT FIRST WAVE OF COVID VACCINES

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi

Nearly 170 Reserve Citizen Airmen received the COVID-19 vaccine at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Feb. 6-7, 2021. Airmen are slated to receive their second doses of the vaccine during the March Unit Training Assembly.

With COVID-19 cases reaching 27 million in the U.S., the DoD put forth a priority plan which allows first responders, mission-critical personnel, members scheduled to deploy soon, food handlers and members with high-risk medical conditions an opportunity to be first in line to receive the vaccine. Airmen not in a priority status who were interested in being vaccinated were provided the opportunity a day later.

Capt. Jennifer Denton, a clinical nurse with the 910th Medical Squadron and vaccine coordinator, said that Airmen and DoD personnel are reminded and encouraged to get the vaccine to protect their health, their families and their community, but the decision is completely voluntary.* Each Airman is encouraged to make an informed decision based on their own research.

According to the 2012 book, "Immunology for Pharmacy," mass administration of effective and safe vaccines helps counter the devastating effects of disease. Historically, diseases such as smallpox,

measles and polio have hindered the military's medical readiness. Since the implementation of vaccination programs, the number of individuals who suffered from widespread disease has plummeted. The incidences of target diseases dropped from 100,000 cases per year to 1-5,000 cases per year in the U.S. Like the Flu vaccine, individuals are expected to experience some side effects and adverse reactions as the body builds its immunity to the virus. Typically, side effects are mild and go away after a few days.

Individuals who have received the first dose of the vaccine receive some level of protection from the virus, said Capt. John Allison, a clinical nurse with the 910th MDS. But depending on your source and their confidence levels, once individuals receive their second dose we're looking at upwards of 90 percent protection.

Whether you are an Airman or Civilian, have received the vaccine or have decided to wait a little longer, the CDC recommends that all individuals continue to practice social distancing, proper wearing of face masks (completely covering wearer's mouth and nose) and regular hand washing.

"Don't visit grandma," said Capt. Elizabeth Hutchinson, a clinical nurse with the 910th MDS. "You should still social distance and wear a mask."



Capt. Daniel Del Rio, a clinical nurse with the 910th MDS, administers a vaccine to a YARS Reserve Citizen Airman, Feb. 7, 2021.

People can still transmit the virus even after receiving the vaccine. The majority of America needs to get vaccinated before we can truly go back to normal. Until then, keep following the DoD's mandates."

YARS Reserve Citizen Airmen who are sick with any illness, whether they believe it to be COVID or not, should continue to follow CDC and DoD guidelines.

**This article predates vaccine mandates.*

AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT: COULDN'T LET GO

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

For Senior Airman Matthew Weems, an aircrew flight equipment technician with the 910th Operations Support Squadron, joining the military wasn't an easy task. In fact, it took him a couple of tries.

In 2001, a teenager fresh out of high school, Weems was battling a shoulder injury he sustained during football season. Rather than taking the time to rehab his injury, he pushed onward with joining the Air National Guard.

"I joined when I was 18 out of high school," said Weems. "And I just couldn't get it done when I was younger."

What seemed like a minor injury eventually put a halt on his military career. Unable to complete the Physical Training requirements at Basic Military Training, Weems was sent home and began his civilian life.

Years would go by, and Weems would become a husband and father. He'd earn a culinary degree and become a truck driver averaging 600 miles per trip. However, during all his life accomplishments, one thing continued to weigh heavily on his heart.

"I couldn't let go," said Weems. "I was like, I kinda want to give it another shot."

So after much consideration, Weems decided to reenlist, but this time, not as a young teenager, rather, a grown man ready to achieve his goals.

"I left for BMT on Sept. 4, 2018," said Weems. During his training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Weems noticed the drastic difference compared to the first time he'd been there. From helping fellow trainees mail

letters to pushing himself in PT, Weems embraced every aspect of his military journey.

"The first time I went to basic training, I didn't get to the point of getting my name tapes," said Weems. "And when I finally graduated, it felt awesome."

For Weems, joining the military wasn't so he could get all the praise and glory. It was for a different reason.

"I didn't join to get a bunch of pats on my back," he said. "I joined for myself, for my family, and to serve my country."

As an Airman working in aircrew flight equipment, Weems has the weight of fellow Airmen on his shoulders.

"Attention to detail is important," said Weems. "You hope no one ever has to use those things (aircrew flight equipment) but they'll be ready if they do."

Testing and preparing aircrew flight equipment is vital to the overall mission. Weems has to always be attentive and prepared because when the aircrew is having their worst day, they can only hope he was having his best when he packed their parachutes, prepped their life rafts or ensured the essential survival items were in their kits.

"There is a little bit of pressure there," said Weems. "If something ever went wrong, I'd want to know I did as much as I could to make sure they would come back safe."

Looking back on his life, Weems doesn't regret his decision to not go to rehab to address his



Senior Airman Matthew Weems, an aircrew flight equipment technician with the 910th Operations Group, poses for a photo on Aug. 8, 2021.

shoulder injury. For if he did, his journey would not have ended up the way it has.

"I want this to last as long as it can," said Weems. "I've a great sense of pride wearing this uniform. I feel like you have a really solid backing with this uniform. With all the resources and people you have working with you."

In the end, Weems has come to understand that it's not about accomplishing the mission when everyone else says it's best. Rather, when the timing is right for you. And for Senior Airman Weems, he's right where he belongs.



76er SKILLS CHALLENGE

Story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer



76th Aerial Port Squadron Airmen, also known as “port dawgs,” push an HMMWV in a physical fitness course during the squadron’s 76er Skills Challenge, May 1, 2021. (Photo by Eric M. White)

The 76th Aerial Port Squadron is back at it with this year’s 76er Skills Challenge 2021 edition, April 30–May 1. The 76er is an annual event held at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, emulating a local version of the Air Force Reserve Command’s Port Dawg Challenge, which is held every two years. The PDC pits the best port dawg teams the command has to offer against each other in the name of training, esprit de corps and the hope of winning squadron bragging rights.

The 76th APS is the standing PDC champion after taking home the coveted AFRC Port Dawg trophy in 2019. The COVID-19 crisis dropped a bone in the works, canceling last year’s 76er challenge, and pushed the AFRC challenge to 2022. With COVID-19 cases dropping, increasing numbers of vaccinations and preventative measures in place, the dawgs are out of the kennel and ready to play.

“The 76th APS Skills Challenge allows us the opportunity to grow as a unit, and our Airmen to grow individually in both their proficiency and their team mentality, and it always, always builds up our morale,” said Lt. Col. Elisa McGahan, commander of the 76th APS.

Mid-level noncommissioned officers, some getting their first taste of leadership, guide their teams through six events: a physical fitness test, 10K (10,000 lbs) standard forklift obstacle course, 25K (25,000 lbs) Halverson obstacle course, pallet build-up, 100-question knowledge test and cargo restraint/center-of-balance calculation. During each challenge, the packs are awarded points for safety, timing, skill and teamwork, ending with a final tally deciding the winner.

“It allows us the opportunity to test those skills against each other. So we break up into teams and we divide out the skill levels within those teams,” said McGahan. “It’s great to challenge our individuals to become better 2T2s (the Air Force Specialty Code, or career designator, within APS) and to work together in a team, getting to know each other a little more—cross pollinate I should say—and work with people they normally don’t work with. Finally, just to build morale and comradery across the squadron.”

From within the 76th APS ranks, through careful observation of the Airmen’s performance and attitude during the 76er challenge and the squadron’s more traditional training, a well-balanced team of brawn, brains and heart will be selected by leadership to defend their AFRC title in the next Port Dawg Challenge, and prove once again that through continued innovation in training and a family style culture, the 76th APS is the alpha of the AFRC pack.

The unit’s morale chant, heard frequently throughout the challenge, vocalizes their fervor:
“Port Dawgs! RRRUFF!”



A team of 76th APS Airmen are timed and graded on a pallet build-up competition during the squadron’s 76er Skills Challenge. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer)



Senior Airman Catherine Jurovcik, a ramp services representative with the 76th APS, operates a 10K standard forklift through an obstacle course. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer)

AFWERX

MISSION DEFENSE TEAM AMPS TRAINING CAPABILITIES

Story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

Thanks to AFWERX squadron innovation funds, the 910th Communications Squadron’s Mission Defense Team was able to build its own replica cyber vulnerability and hunt-kit for training.

The capability to simulate a contested cyberspace environment off-network allows the MDT to search for malicious activity on a private network, analyze the data on that network and do survey missions.

“As part of surveying, we’re looking for any malicious activity or advanced persistent threats that may be on the network,” said Master Sgt. Scott Ranostay, a cyber-security analyst and MDT team member assigned to the 910th CS. “Someone could be downloading a suspicious file, but it’s our job to not only identify those files but also determine normal behavior.”

MDT members will achieve this by performing five core functions: identify, protect, detect, respond and recover. The tools of the trade are laptops called mobile interceptor platforms, capable of being connected to a network anywhere around the world, mission-permitting, and the server farm, which houses the MDT’s sensor. Both are part of the replica cyber vulnerability and hunt kit and are used for gathering network traffic and capturing data for analysis. Essentially, they’re tools for establishing a baseline for normal network traffic and identifying any anomalous activity.

“Data analytics is new and huge in the game of IT these days, especially when you’re looking at a lot of logs and data,” said Ranostay. “To be

able to index all that data and pivot based off key indicators, it’s key to have the right technology, and we use what they call ELK stack and Kibana as our visualization dashboard so that we can see the data. Being able to track data down is paramount when identifying threats and vulnerabilities.”

Another key piece to MDT training is knowing cyber intel, being able to identify what type of threats are out there, how they work and how to fight back. Putting the tools and skills together allows the MDT to monitor network traffic in real-time for anything potentially harmful to the network.

For example, malicious activity like trying a brute force attack, meaning a user is trying to log in repetitively over and over and failing, will spawn a failing event code from that malicious activity. Once the event code is identified, the MDT can pivot over to protecting the network and detecting the offending machine’s IP address or the geological coordinates of that machine. Once found, the MDT then responds by informing the proper authority to take it from there, maybe resulting in a counterstrike or recovering with a tougher defensive posture.

“Our goal is to always be in constant contact with our adversary on the network,” said Ranostay. “We’re moving away from the mindset of the traditional ‘patch your machine, install all updates, make sure all software is up to date, turn off any services you don’t need and make a complex password’ that has always been historically the trend of how we protect our machines. I’m not

saying that’s bad, we should still be doing those things, but we’re now moving over to actively searching for those offensive malicious attacks.”

Along with the replica kit, the MDT now has a new place to call home. Constructed with a central conference area, the main room houses enough desks for the whole team to train together across from a large training display on the wall. If someone identifies something of interest and they want to show the team, they can put it up visually on screen for everybody to get their eyes on it and share ideas on how to react to it.

“So for the traditional reservists that are here, we do exercises when they come in,” said Ranostay. “We’re continually sharing the knowledge which is extremely beneficial, and with this new room’s capabilities we’re able to share that amongst the entire team now... we didn’t have the capability before, but we do now, so I’m super, super happy about that.”

Each MDT member has an initial qualification training plan requiring hours of computer-based training followed by an in-house test, which upon passing, qualifies the member to be sent to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, for six weeks of cyber protect and defend training. Through weekly tests on various applications installed in the toolset, they can become IQT compliant and certified to operate the CVA/H kit equipment. The 910th MDT’s official CVA/H production kit is expected to arrive in approximately two years. Until then, the focus is on training.



Col. Colleen Kelley, 910th Medical Squadron commander, poses with her recently published book, "COVID SCHMOVID", Aug. 8, 2021, in front of the 910th Medical Squadron building.

COVID SCHMOVID

A PRIMER FOR SURVIVAL

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Juliet Louden

Shift after shift, an emergency room doctor saw the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, fighting to help keep her deathly-ill patients alive and watching the devastation it caused to so many families.

This doctor, despite the darkness surrounding her from the virus, decided to use this situation as an opportunity to take a light-hearted approach to help people stay healthy by writing a book.

Col. Colleen Kelley, 910th Medical Squadron commander, and author of 'COVID Schmoid', was sitting in her office for another stressful and frustrating Zoom meeting with other doctors she works with at the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, Vermont. As the meeting progressed, the tone was anything but light. Kelley interjected with a response that changed the course of the meeting.

"What we all just want to say is, 'COVID schmoid!' Can't we just be done with all of this?," exclaimed Kelley while leaning back in her chair and tossing her arms.

Kelley's comment created a lighter feeling throughout the rest of the meeting.

"It was the first time in over an hour that anyone had smiled," said Kelley. "And it showed me how deeply people were affected; families, children, friends, healthcare workers, military, everyone, all of us. To one degree or another, some of us a lot. Some of us have lost everything, some folks, even their lives."

As the meeting continued, Kelley found a crumpled white napkin on her desk and started to write. Twenty minutes later she had written a long poem with one stanza dedicated to each of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Kelley then read the poem during the zoom call.

"After sharing this poem during the meeting and then reading it to co-workers, friends and family, they all said I should write a book," said Kelley. "Finally inspired by confidence and based on their support, is how this book

came to be."

Kelley's experience harkens back to a childhood moment that convinced her she wanted to be a doctor.

"I was riding my bike and my toe got stuck in the spokes," laughed Kelley. "My grandfather helped me up and put a bandage on it, and it instantly made me feel better. In my four-year-old mind, if that is what doctors do, that is what I want to do for the rest of my life. From that moment I knew I was going to be Dr. Kelley."

Kelley keeps an old polaroid picture of herself on a little bike next to her grandfather that serves as a frequent reminder of her calling.

Helping people is a value that runs deep in Kelley's family. "My grandfather was a Navy surgeon at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked," said Kelley. "He worked for 48 hours after the attack to save people. After World War II, he went on to become a psychiatrist and continued a life of helping people. I wanted to spend my life the same way."

Both of Kelley's roles as 910th Medical Squadron commander and an emergency room doctor allow her to help others.

"There was a little kid in the ER with a really cool mask," Kelley said with a smile. "I read him part of the book. He was fascinated, and behind his eyes, you could see him smiling from ear to ear. His reaction gave me a sense of hope that we can get through this together."

Not only is the book a way to help people through its content, but all the proceeds from the book are being donated to two local organizations in Kelley's hometown in Vermont. She chose organizations that provide services to people who have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

"This was an exciting project that I hope helps to lighten the frustration and fatigue that we all have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Kelley. "While doing what is needed to help keep ourselves and our families healthy, perhaps we can smile together while hoping for a better future for us all."

COVID-19

RESPONSE • RESILIENCE • READINESS

Story by Senior Airman Chris Corso

As COVID-19 quickly changed the world in early 2020, the resiliency, readiness and disaster preparedness of Youngstown Air Reserve Station were immediately tested. Through swift actions and Airmen going above and beyond, the pandemic was met head on.

On March 17, 2020, Col. Casey Dodds, 910th Airlift Wing vice commander, and at the time, acting commander, started COVID safety protocols by limiting access to the installation to assigned personnel in accordance with Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

"We appreciate the flexibility of everyone involved as we work diligently to bring the YARS family through this time of national crisis as safely as possible," said Dodds, while announcing the measures.

These restrictions remained in place through 2020 and well into 2021.

Web programs like Microsoft Teams and Zoom offered physically distanced alternatives to the day-to-day operations of the 910th. With teleworking offered for many functions, leadership encouraged it to the maximum extent for Airmen who were able to complete their mission requirements from home.

To continue leadership development at YARS, the 910th AW held its third annual Flight Commander's Edge Air University course in February 2021. Earning positive feedback from Airmen across the base, FCE was held in a hybrid virtual and in-person format. The 910th Communications Squadron worked with the public affairs office to broadcast training sessions and speakers to small cell groups scattered throughout the base. The limited group size prevented COVID spread. Several students commented that the format was actually an improvement, providing more mentorship time and allowing more students to contribute to the discussion in the smaller groups.

"Great leadership is a relay; sooner or later you've got to pass the baton," said Capt. Jamila Thomas, a clinical nurse assigned to the 910th

Medical Squadron and the lead coordinator for FCE. "The Flight Commander's Edge course is one of the most beneficial Air University courses available to up-and-coming leaders. So much so that we changed the whole way of teaching it so we wouldn't miss this year's."

With the many changes to everyday life, mental health across the globe took a dramatic turn during the pandemic. Concern for the overall health and safety of the Airmen drove YARS' helping agencies to quick action.

Shelly Trimble, the base Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, offered her iRest meditation sessions through video conferencing, as did Karen Hazel-Johnson, the wing's violence prevention integration specialist, with her yoga sessions. The chaplain's office continued offering spiritual support to Airmen through virtual formats, and Terri Ann Naughton, the wing's director of psychological health, offered counseling services online and via phone.

"The base helping agencies are all still available and there is no reduction in services," said Naughton, addressing the new methods of offering helping agency services. "Nothing has changed except we communicate in other ways than in person... You have to address heart, mind, body and soul to live a healthy COVID-19 existence."

In addition to keeping Airmen resilient on the home front, YARS Airmen went on the offensive and deployed to the frontlines, assisting in pandemic disaster relief.

In April 2020, Lt. Col. Susan Gutlove, along with 14 other Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 910th Medical Squadron, went to the Jacob J. Javits Convention Center, a military-run popup hospital in New York City established to help treat the influx of COVID-19 patients. Other 910th MDS members served at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. Even though COVID was still fairly new and much was needed to be learned along the way, Gutlove and the Reserve Citizen Airmen embraced the challenges head-on and stayed vigilant.

"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."

Throughout the next few months, more members of the 910th Medical Squadron would also take on the duty of traveling to New York City to assist in COVID-19 relief.

To salute medical workers and first responders, the 910th Airlift Wing presented the idea of "Hercs Over America," which was quickly adopted by the 22nd Air Force's C-130 units. Aircrew members assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron performed flyovers of hospitals in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania in May 2020. The flights provided valuable training for aircrew members as well.

Despite certain functions being limited during the pandemic, YARS stayed true to its mission of staying, "Combat ready NOW...for tomorrow's fight!" in many ways.

Rally in the Valley 2020, a distributed operations exercise consisting of five Air Force Reserve and one Air National Guard C-130 units, went on according to plan with a few slight modifications to combat the risk of COVID-19. Rather than all five squadrons flying out of the same installation for training sorties, they were strategically dispersed to a few installations. Once in the air, the aircraft rallied to carry out their objectives. Aircrews flying from the different installations never had physical contact with one another, mitigating COVID risk and proving the potential of the distributed operations model.

As a result of YARS' quick and efficient COVID-19 response, as well as other base accomplishments during 2020, the 910th Airlift Wing was awarded the inaugural Battle Born trophy by the 22nd Air Force.

Despite everything that was hindered by COVID-19, the mission of Youngstown Air Reserve Station remained priority number one. While procedures and safety precautions changed, mission readiness remained measurably strong.

AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT CONDUCTS WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING AT YSU

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.



A group of 910th Operations Group airmen help others aboard a 20-person life raft during an aircrew water survival refresher training event at Youngstown State University's Beeghly Natatorium Olympic Swimming Pool, April 11, 2021.

A 12-person team made up of members of the Aircrew Flight Equipment shop and a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist, all assigned to the 910th Operations Support Squadron based at nearby Youngstown Air Reserve Station, conducted an aircrew water survival refresher training event at Youngstown State University's Beeghly Natatorium Olympic Swimming Pool, April 11, 2021.

Master Sgt. Zach Angel, the 910th OSS SERE Specialist, said the refresher training, conducted this year for 34 Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the squadrons of the 910th Operations Group, is a triennial requirement for all aircrew members.

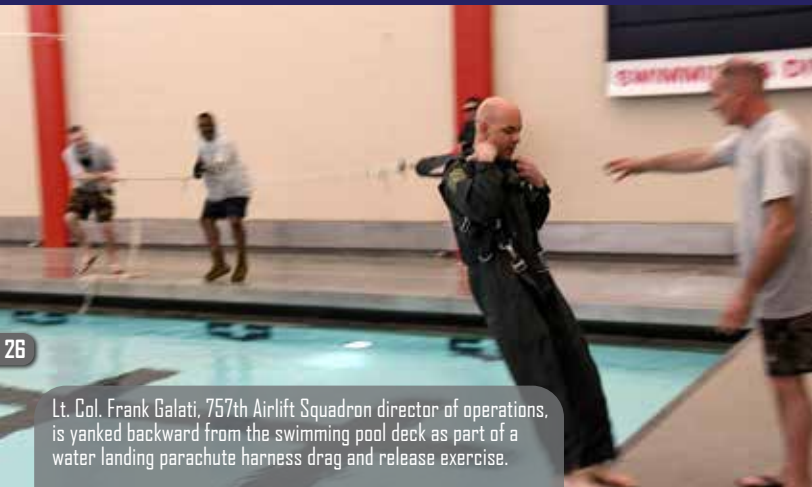
The training event was broken into several blocks including aircrew familiarization of AFE water survival accessories aboard the 910th's C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft; 20-person and single-person life raft operations; swimming techniques; a water landing parachute harness drag and release and water landing parachute disentangling techniques.

Angel said if YSU had not allowed use of their pool, the training would not have been able to be conducted this year with other local facilities being closed due to COVID-19. He said this would have negatively affected the wing's combat readiness.

"If we don't get the training done, our aircrews aren't deployable and require waivers," Angel said. "It's a real pain, if we can't get this training done, for the amount of people we have."

YSU President Jim Tressel attended the training event and said it was another example of the collaborative spirit between the 910th and YSU.

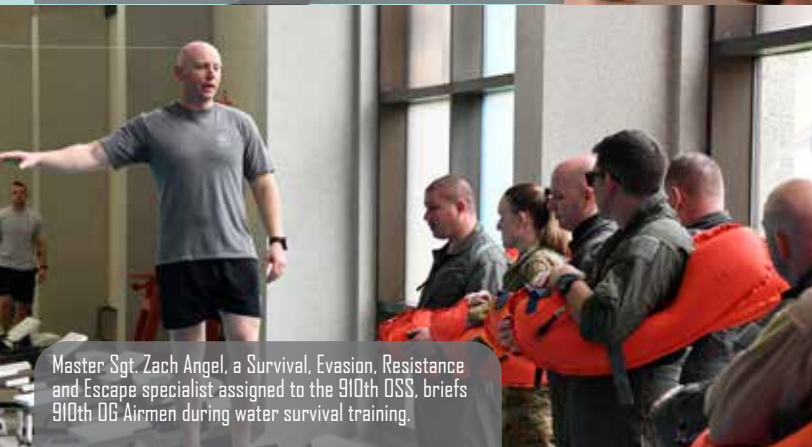
"The impact both (the 910th and YSU) make in our region (is significant). Without either, I'm not sure what this region would be all about, so we've got to make sure we support the people who are making a huge impact..." Tressel said. "People are proud (the 910th) is here, proud YSU is here... So, anything we can do to be together like being here at the Beeghly Natatorium for water survival or when we are out at the (YARS) shooting range with our Police Academy, we love collaborating."



Lt. Col. Frank Galati, 757th Airlift Squadron director of operations, is yanked backward from the swimming pool deck as part of a water landing parachute harness drag and release exercise.



Senior Airman Micaiah Walker, a loadmaster assigned to the 757th AS, watches as Master Sgt. Phillip Walsh, AFE NCOIC assigned to the 910th Operations Support Squadron, buckles her parachute harness clasp.



Master Sgt. Zach Angel, a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist assigned to the 910th OSS, briefs 910th OG Airmen during water survival training.



Maj. Ryan Cooley, 757th AS chief of aerial spray, sits for a moment after climbing from the water into a one-man life raft during an aircrew water survival refresher.

CBRNE DEFENSE COURSES KEEP AIRMEN PREPARED

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

The 910th Civil Engineer Squadron taught chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives, commonly called CBRNE, defense courses during the 910th Airlift Wing's unit training assembly, Jan. 9-10, 2021, here.

Reserve Citizen Airmen are required to remain current in CBRNE skills to remain consistent with the wing's mission statement of, "Combat ready NOW...for tomorrow's fight!" Within about an hour-and-a-half, the class covers three main sections: CBRNE hazards, protective equipment and CBRNE attack response.

The class began with a presentation on symptoms of exposure in chemical warfare and defending against different CBRNE threats. The presentation also contained an overview of alert color levels, force protection condition levels and the corresponding mission-oriented protective posture gear levels and procedures appropriate to each of the scenarios.

The Airmen then inspected their M50 gas masks and MOPP gear and received an explanation of each piece's location, purpose and donning procedures. The presentation finished with a walkthrough of team responsibilities after an attack. Participants practiced donning

and doffing all their gear and performing buddy checks on their wingmen and were inspected by the course instructor.

"CBRNE training is important so that Airmen have the skills to protect themselves in the event of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosives attacks," said Senior Airman Donald Duda, an emergency management member assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The CBRNE course is one of many courses Airmen take to ensure the United States Air Force is the finest and best-prepared Air Force in the world.



Maj. Keisha Wolfe, a pediatrician assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron, dons her M50 gas mask, Jan. 9, 2021, during a CBRNE defense course.



Maj. William White, a family physician assigned to the 910th Medical Squadron, signs his M50 gas mask's inspection tag, Jan. 9, 2021.



Senior Airman Donald Duda, an emergency management member with the 910th CES, instructs a CBRNE defense course, Jan. 9, 2021.



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gilmore, a fireteam member assigned to the 910th Security Forces Squadron, inspects his M50 gas mask, Jan. 9, 2021, during a CBRNE defense course.

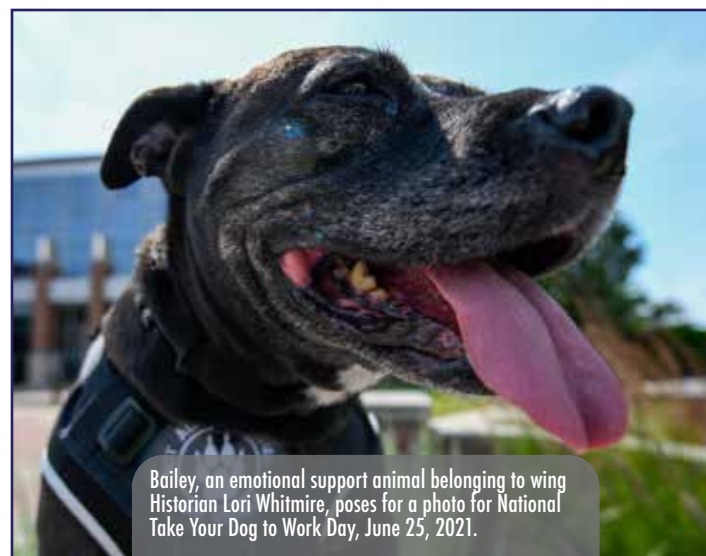


910th Security Forces Squadron fireteam members Staff Sgt. Cody Dornier and Tech. Sgt. Andrew Gilmore don mission-oriented protective posture gear, Jan. 9, 2021.



2021 PHOTOS

A 910th Airlift wing C-130H Hercules aircraft drops a bundle of Meals, Ready-to-Eat at the Camp James A. Garfield's Slagle drop zone in Ravenna, Ohio, March 19, 2021. Photo by Eric M. White.



Bailey, an emotional support animal belonging to wing Historian Lori Whitmire, poses for a photo for National Take Your Dog to Work Day, June 25, 2021.

Photo by Eric M. White



First Lt. Pete Musselman, a 757th Airlift Squadron navigator, helps spot landmarks from a C-130 during Operation Arizona Sunrise, Jan. 27, 2021.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer



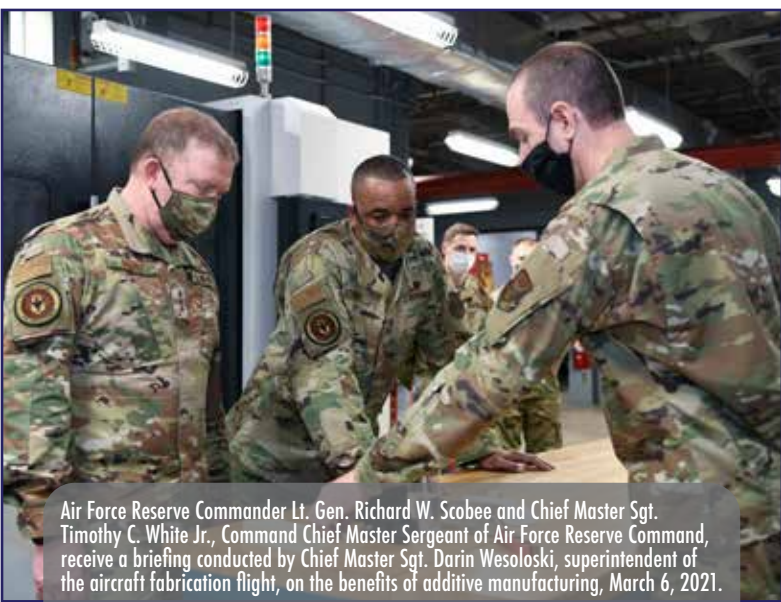
910th Security Forces Squadron members walk toward a staging area at Camp James A. Garfield's Slagle drop zone in Ravenna, Ohio, March 19, 2021.

Photo by Eric M. White



Airman 1st Class Carl Lester, a fireteam member with the 910th Security Forces Squadron, is shocked by a Taser for training on Oct. 3, 2021.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Russ



Air Force Reserve Commander Lt. Gen. Richard W. Scobee and Chief Master Sgt. Timothy C. White Jr., Command Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force Reserve Command, receive a briefing conducted by Chief Master Sgt. Darin Wesoloski, superintendent of the aircraft fabrication flight, on the benefits of additive manufacturing, March 6, 2021.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi



Tech. Sgt. Dawana Vaughn, Senior Airmen Lucas Keck and 2nd Lt. Lauren Scruggs, a clinical nurse, all with the 910th MDS, prepare to administer COVID-19 vaccines, Feb. 7, 2021.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi



A firefighter assigned to the 910th Civil Engineer Squadron holds the American flag during the 910th Airlift Wing's 20th Anniversary 9/11 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021, at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Juliet Loudon



Senior Airman Jordan Driscall and Airman 1st Class Haley Reusel, both assigned to the 910th Force Support Squadron's services section, clean supplies from storage July 14, 2021.

Photo by Eric M. White



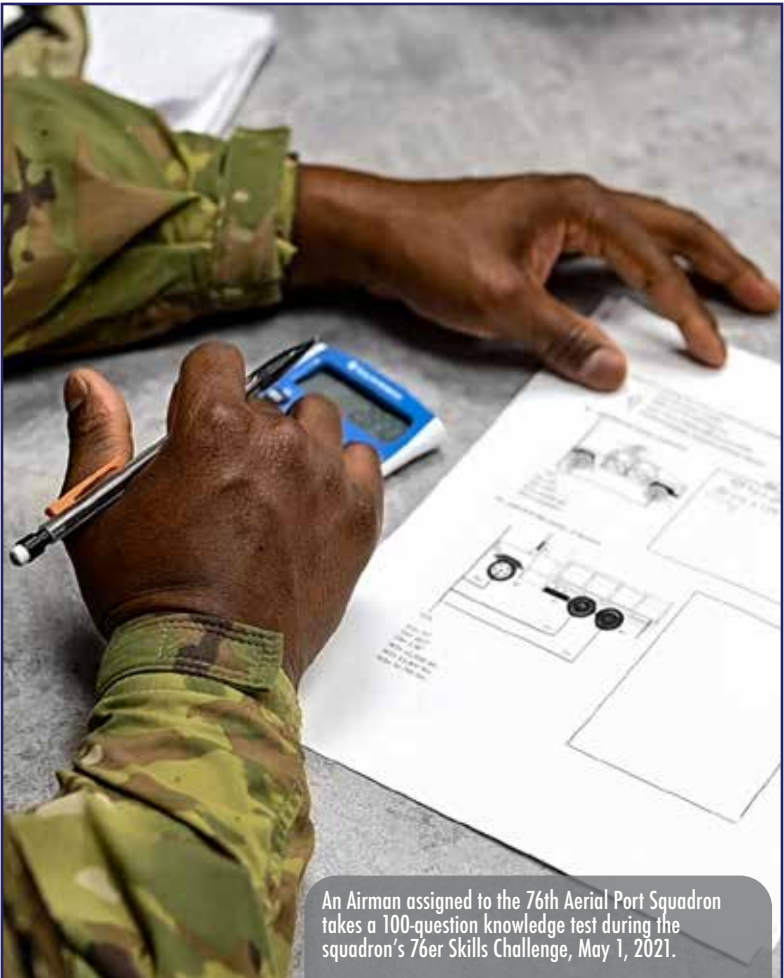
Reserve Citizen Airmen support a witch walk during the family fall festival, Oct. 2, 2021, located at the base running track.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Grossi



Master Sgt. Zachariah Angel, a SERE operations craftsman with the 910th Operations Support Squadron, teaches a group of 910th SFS members how to construct a survival shelter at Camp James A. Garfield in Ravenna, Ohio, March 22, 2021.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer



An Airman assigned to the 76th Aerial Port Squadron takes a 100-question knowledge test during the squadron's 76er Skills Challenge, May 1, 2021.

Photo by Senior Airman Chris Corso



A 910th Airlift Wing C-130 prepares for takeoff from the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona, to conduct joint airborne/air transportability training during Operation Arizona Sunrise, Jan. 29, 2021.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Noah J. Tancer

