

THUNDERBOLT

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Team MacDill celebrates annual award winners - Page 10



Photo by Senior Airman Linzi Joseph

Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, and Senior Airman John McDermott, 6th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, cut the cake at the Annual Awards Ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base Feb. 24. The 6th Air Mobility Annual Awards theme was, "We make us better."

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Busy days; our standouts for the year, week

by Col. Lenny Richoux
6th Air Mobility Wing commander

This week was certainly a busy and productive one. We enjoyed a great annual awards banquet last Friday and the work that the banquet committee put into the theme made for an awesome event. Congratulations to all the winners – please see our annual award winners in this issue's centerfold.

We also kicked off MacDill's Air Force Assistance Fund contribution period. **Capt. Jared Reeves** is spearheading MacDill's AFAF effort, and I appreciate what he is doing to highlight the need for us to support the four charities that fall under AFAF. Each of these worthy charities provides assistance to Airmen, their families, surviving spouses and retirees who need financial support. I want to encourage all who can to continue the tradition of taking care of our own by contributing to this year's AFAF campaign.

Additionally, March is Women's History Month and the base is honoring the legacy of women who've made tremendous contribu-

tions to our common history and more notably Air Force history. This year's theme is "Our History is Our Strength." I want to thank **Tech. Sgt. Amanda Hendrix, Ms. Colleen Otero, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kisse** and **Senior Airman Kate Holt** for their work with organizing the Women's History Luncheon and other activities the base will host this month.

I also want to recognize the 6th Security Forces Squadron's Military Working Dog section for recently conducting nine demonstrations for various organizations and events. Demonstrations were conducted and narrated by **Tech. Sgt. Jerrel Colston, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Stranges, and Staff Sgt. Reginald Overstreet.**

The MWD section's Staff Sgt. Dmitriy Sklyar recently supported a few high-visibility distinguished visitors arriving and departing MacDill AFB. **Staff Sgt. Jonathan Hartwell, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Desmond, Staff Sgt. William Grymes, Staff Sgt. Joshua Burnett, Senior Amn Brandon Denton, and Senior Airman Adam Chambers** led the charge



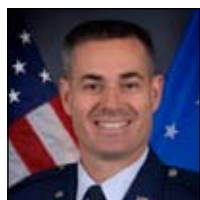
Col. Lenny Richoux addresses the audience at the 6th Air Mobility Wing Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 25

as all dormitories were inspected for welfare and safety by six different K-9 teams.

The 927th AMXS' **Staff Sgt. Michael Coates** and 6th AMXS' **Staff Sgt. Robert Jeffries** exemplified Air Force core values and the total force concept by responding at a moment's notice to a stranded KC-135 aircraft in Butte, Mont., due

to an engine malfunction. Given limited resources and a winter environment, they repaired the ignition system discrepancies within 12 hours. Aircraft 3517 has since returned to MacDill with no further engine issues.

I am proud to serve with you in the finest Air Mobility Wing on the face of the planet!



COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides a two-way communication between the 6th Air Mobility Wing commander and the MacDill community. A 24-hour recording service is provided so personnel may submit questions, concerns or comments. Call the Action Line at 828-INFO (4636) or e-mail macdillwingcommander@macdill.af.mil



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MacDill Thunderbolt

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Deadline for article submissions is noon, Thursdays to appear in the next week's publication. Articles received after deadline may be considered for future use. All submissions are considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph is edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity, conformance with the "Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual" and Air Force Instruction 35-101.



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Events, movies, more...

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Q: I'm inquiring about open storage for my 16-foot jon boat. I'm a retired military member wishing to store my boat on MacDill AFB. I retired in 1998 and put my name on the list thru the Services Squadron. At that time my name was #95. I checked the status again last week my name was # 94. Many years have passed; it seems like the list never moves. I know active duty members have priority, however, as you pass by the open storage lots it looks like there are a lot of boats and other equipment that is abandoned, with no current registration or tags. Are there any processes in effect to shorten the wait time? Thanks for your time, any assistance is greatly appreciated.

A: Thank you for your inquiry on the availability of on-base boat storage. The demand for recreational vehicle storage, both boats and R/Vs, is great. We currently have 256 slots in three designated areas to accommodate storage, with another 264 individuals

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MacDill's Air Force Assistance Fund kicks off

Special to the Thunderbolt

The Air Force Assistance Fund was established to provide for an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family...basically, it's Air Force members helping Air Force families in need. The charitable organizations supported are the Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation, the Air Force Villages Foundation, the Air Force Aid Society, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. These organizations help Air Force people with aid in an emergency, with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance. This past year alone, more than \$144,000 was given out in grants and loans to MacDill's Airmen. These are charities we can see working at a very personal level!

The MacDill campaign runs from March 7 through April 15. Installation Project Officers are Capt. Jared Reeves and Master Sgt. Melissa Ebenhoeh. Contact any of the following group contacts for more information:

6th Medical Group - Master Sgt. Jennifer Martinez, 827-1455
6th Mission Support Group - 1st Lt. Charles



Photo by Tech Sgt. Tanika Bellfield

(Right) Col. Lenny Richoux, 6th Air Mobility Wing Commander, and Co ave Cohen, 6th Air Mobility Wing vice commander, prepare checks for the organization of their choice as the Air Force Assistance Fund Installation Project Officer Capt. Jared Reeves looks on Feb. 28.

Henderlite, 828-4545
6th Maintenance Group - Master Sgt. Brad Robbins, 828-4303
6th Operations Group - Master Sgt. Corey Latiolais, 828-4405
SOCOM - Master Sgt. George Ritenauer, 826-6955
JCSE - Capt. Matthew Suhre, 828-3013

CGOs gaining professional development strategies for an evolving force

by 2nd Lt. Alessandra Horban

6th Operations Group

"Our nation requires intelligent, assertive, well-rounded young men and women as leaders and defenders of freedom," said Brig. Gen. Richard Clark.

Many company grade officers are feeling the pressure of force shaping and learning to lead Airmen in fiscally constrained environments. The 2011 CGO Professional Development Conference sponsored by the Air Force Company Grade Officers' Council and hosted by MacDill AFB CGOC will address these topics and more with guest speakers, such as Brig. Gen. Sharon Dunbar, AF/A1P, and Brig. Gen. Joseph Ward Jr, Director, Budget Operations and Personnel.

Through commissioning sources officers are provided professional development and leadership tools. However, after commissioning they may have a five, or more, year gap between Air and Space Basic Course and Squadron Officer School. Some may not even have the opportunity to get an in-residence experience of SOS. This conference will offer a professional development opportunity to shape and mold leadership styles to create officers that will lead the future of

See CGOC, Page 15



‘There I was’ Afghanistan deployment an experience in job satisfaction

by Master Sgt. Tikisha Tripp
6th Force Support Squadron

There I was landing in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Nov. 20, 2010, bracing myself for the arrival onto the airfield. I was a little nervous but excited to start a new experience. Kandahar was surprisingly quiet in the late hours of the night. As I walked off the airplane, I started to get excited and my heart began to beat a little harder. The view from the flight line made me eager to see what Afghanistan was like other than pictures shown on the news. After 16 years in the Air Force, I had deployed around the world, this time to learn a new job at a very different location.

The initial tour around the base was nothing like I had expected. There were a few places that reminded me of the United States, to include a coffee shop and some popular restaurants. There was still the dry, dusty wind and terrain to let you know it's not quiet home. Although I was still a little jet lagged from getting straight off the airplane, there was not much time left with my replacement so I began to receive training.

It seemed like so much information was given to me in only a few hours of time. I was also overwhelmed about what was expected of me with no official training prior to my arrival to KAF, but I am determined to do a good job. The next day, reality hit me: I was issued a weapon with ammunition and was told to keep it with me everywhere I go. I realized at that moment how really dangerous it is at this location, especially when I heard the occasional

loud noise and then sirens.

Over the next few days, I continued to learn the base, base rules and processes to becoming more efficient at my job, and preparing for my first distinguished visitor: from the Secretary of the Air Force the following week. However, with Thanksgiving approaching it was hard not to think about my family, family traditions, and friends at home celebrating without my being there. Instead, I stayed focused and reminded that here at KAF I have somewhat of a family away from home. It got me through the Holidays but it's just a little different and I appreciated family at home even more.

After the next few weeks, which seemed like they lasted an eternity, my new job as the Protocol non-commissioned officer in charge was more than I expected. It required thorough planning and coordinating of details that I didn't expect. For example, considering the path the DVs would take entering and exiting different locations; cleaning and preparing their rooms; favorite snacks. It was as though I would have to predict the future of every detail at every location traveled.

Despite the long hours, I realized there were great people in the Air Force to include leadership at the Air Force level, U.S. Air Forces Central, and even here at the 451st Wing, so it made the job satisfying. Along with job satisfaction, I received fulfillment from volunteering for the local Afghanistan children. I assisted with loading and delivering jackets to the Afghanistan hangar for 256 children during the Afghan Air Wing's open house.

My favorite event I volunteered for was the Kandahar Bazaar School. The interaction with the school kids was amazing. Airmen taught the children American crafts and talked to them about what they liked about school. It really eased the feelings of being away from my daughter. Nevertheless, I know the pur-



Master Sgt. Tikisha Tripp

pose of our being here and I'm glad I was selected to come to Kandahar. The main reason the military is always present at any location, to shield and protect the interests of those who are innocent and worthy.

As military members, we are selected to travel to places we never knew existed prior to enlisting. Kandahar was one of those places I didn't know before my own enlistment. However, after 60 days here, I have learned a lot about Air Force leadership, people and my new job as protocol NCOIC. This experience has helped me appreciate the conveniences of the United States and has helped me focus on the fact that overall I'm here supporting the people of Afghanistan.



National Prayer Luncheon March 10

Courtesy of 6th Air Mobility Wing Chapel

The MacDill Air Force Base 2011 National Prayer Luncheon is scheduled for March 10 at the Surf's Edge Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets for the luncheon are \$7 each. Tickets can be obtained from first sergeants, unit chaplains, or at the base chapel.

National Prayer Luncheon's roots can be traced back to 1953 and typically occur annually in February at bases across the United States.

"Prayer luncheons are an opportunity for people of all-faiths to gather and pray together for the good of our nation and the world," said Chaplain (Capt.) William "Spence" Spencer, 6th Air Mobility Wing Senior Protestant chaplain.

The guest speaker for this year's breakfast is Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) David H. Cyr, Headquarters United States Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains. The focus of his message will be centered around the theme: "So, Help Me God," which is taken from the oath of enlistment.

As the deputy chief of chaplains and a member of the special staff of the chief of staff, Chaplain Cyr assists the chief of chaplains in establishing guidance on all matters pertaining to the religious and morale welfare of Air Force members and their families.

He also assists in directing a professional chaplain corps of more than 2,200 chaplains and chaplain assistants from the active and Air Reserve components.

As a member of the Armed Forces Chaplain Board, he and other members advise the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on religious, ethical and quality of life concerns.

Chaplain Cyr took over as Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains in May 2008. Before taking on this role, he served as the command chaplain at Headquarters USAF Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va. He also served as the commandant for United States Air Force Chaplain Service Institute, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

For more information on the MacDill AFB Prayer Luncheon, call the chapel at 828-3621.

310th Airlift Squadron spouse orientation a success



Courtesy photo

Spouses of 6th Air Mobility Wing members aboard a C-37 during their orientation flight Feb. 19. The opportunity gave them a behind-the-scenes look at the important mission of the 310th Airlift Squadron.

Courtesy of the 310th Airlift Squadron

On Feb. 19, 24 spouses from across the 6th Air Mobility Wing participated in an orientation with the 310th Airlift Squadron. The day's activities began with a welcome by Lt. Col. Jason Wolf, commander, and Master Sgt. Dave Folkerts, superintendent. They, along with the Mission Development flight commander, Maj. Rob Giannoni, detailed the mission planning responsibilities associated with each crew position before a mission departs. Lt. Col. Pat Thompson, director of operations, then led a tour of the squadron operations center and squadron flight offices. He provided insight into scheduling, training, standardization and aviation resource management operations.

After the tour, the spouses spent half an hour in the flight attendant kitchen, where they engaged in a cooking demonstration (and rhubarb cake sampling) with two of the squadron's flight attendants, Tech. Sgt. Nick Gomez and Tech. Sgt. Angela Whitman. They spoke to the differences between cooking at 40,000 feet and cooking on the ground, and enlightened those in attendance on how the crew provides five-star customer service to the four stars during their long missions.

After a short stop in the squadron heritage room for the pre-mission brief by director of staff, Maj. Brandon Leifer, the spouses boarded a C-37, "The Blue and White" for a tour of Florida's Gold Coast and Space Coast. The weather and visibility were perfect, and each passenger gained an appreciation for exactly what transpires from takeoff to landing on one of the Air Force's most reliable and comfortable aircraft.

"What a great day, and a great chance to show our appreciation for the support our passengers give us in our mission," said Tech. Sgt. Matt Wallace, the flight engineer aboard. Master Sgt. Gail Delbianco, flight attendant and Wing Safety NCO, kept the passengers safe during the orientation flight and provided outstanding in-flight meal service.

Wrapping up, a successful orientation day was had by all, and it was a tremendous opportunity to get a glimpse behind the scenes of one of the safest and best-run airlift operations in the Air Force.

2010 Award



Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Kristina Zacherl
6th Operations Group



NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Breann Green
6th Mission Support Group



Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Fitzroy Howe
6th Mission Support Group



CAT I Civilian of the Year
Reginald Henderson
6th Mission Support Group



CAT II Civilian of the Year
Larry Cresswell, AMW
6th Air Mobility Wing



CAT III Civilian of the Year
Douglas Willard
6th Mission Support Group

Winners



e
up



First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Joseph Lamb
6th Mission Support Group



CGO of the Year
Capt. Jacob Foley
6th Mission Support Group



ar
up



Honor Guard Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Amber Phelps
6th Medical Group



Honor Guard NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Keri Stadelmann
6th Mission Support Group

DIAMOND SHARP



Airman 1st Class Bobby R. Jones Jr.
91st Air Refueling Squadron

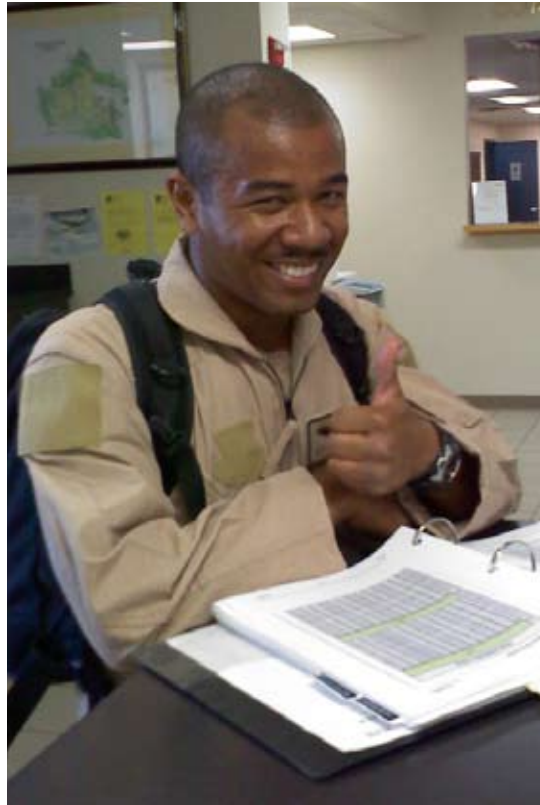


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tanika Belfield

Job Title: In-Flight Refueler, KC-135R

Home Town: Box Springs, Ga.

Short-term goals: To advance in both skill level and pay grade within the next three years. To earn my CCAF degree and build a car from scratch.

Long-term goals: To apply the skills and knowledge I have gained as an Airman toward furthering my education and obtaining a private pilot's license.

Advice to others: Always take steps to attaining your goals. Create small goals that are achievable that lead up to accomplishing your long-term goals.

Role model and why: My father. He taught me the importance of being resilient and to always account for my actions. He is an accomplished, yet humble, individual and a stoic example of intellectual and moral courage

FORCE: supporting the Air Force global mission

by Mater Sgt. Ronald Menges

49th Material Maintenance Support Squadron OL A

MacDill Air Force Base is host to 39 mission partners. One of those partners, 49th Material Maintenance Support Squadron/Operating Location A, maintains and postures war readiness material assets, while training Airmen from all major commands.

Based out of Holloman AFB, New Mexico, Operating Location Alpha's mission at MacDill includes the responsibility for maintenance, readiness, and deployment of 329 Fuels Operational Readiness Capability Equipment (FORCE) assets valued at \$15.6 million. Known as the "Center of Excellence" by the fuels community, the 24 assigned members perform a variety of support functions. Recently, members deployed to assist the Expeditionary forces at six locations with physical layout and setup of the system, aircraft servicing modes, and equip-

See **FUEL**, Page 16



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Andrus conducts training during a FORCE Symposium. The focus of the one week course is to ensure Air Expeditionary Force deployers receive proper training on the new fuel delivery system prior to arriving at the deployed location.

ACTION LINE

From Page 3

on our waiting list. As you have noted, active duty personnel do have priority and always move to the top of the list. Currently, 38 active duty members are waiting for spaces. To help meet the high demand, we are seeking additional space to allow for future expansion of our storage capabilities.

We also share your concern over vehicles with expired registrations and have contacted the owners to ensure they acquire and maintain current registration or remove their property from the lot to free-up space. As circumstances change, purging the lot as well as the waiting list will be ongoing. We look forward to supporting your boat storage needs. Feel free to contact Outdoor Recreation at (813) 840-6919 to inquire about availability and to determine your position on the waiting list.

- Col. Lenny Richoux

the greatest Air Force in the world.

In today's deployed environment, the need to understand other services and cultures is paramount. A joint senior enlisted panel will deliver some insight of how to lead within these types of environments with troops from different services. There will also be regional briefings on areas, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Space is the future; the Air Force uses satellite communications to and from the area of responsibility to execute missions. Today, CGOs will deploy multiple times and it's important to understand how technology is used to enhance overseas contingency operations. Brig. Gen. Cary Chun, deputy commander, Operations and Interagency Integration, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, as well as Col. Stephen Corcoran, commander of the Joint Communications Support Element, will discuss the future of harnessing joint space for the war fighters' needs and divulge how rapid joint communications are deployed.

This year's conference will occur at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Tampa from May 2- 6. For additional information and register go to <http://www.afc goc.org/content/conference>. Confirm your attendance today as registration closes March 30. You and your leadership will not regret investing in your Air Force career and future. You will live to appreciate attending this conference by the knowledge gained and the important networking opportunities with senior leaders and more than 200 other CGOs from around the Air Force.

FUEL

From Page 14

ment communications/electrical troubleshooting.

“Conducting Operational Safety Inspection Checks to ensure serviceable equipment is postured for OPLAN support is our main purpose,” states Tech. Sgt. Aaron Thomas, 49TH MMSS/OL-A, NCOIC FORCE Operations.

This team utilizes seven MacDill facilities to house and operate support equipment and is charged with custodial duties of fuel support items including Mission Readiness Support Packages. Additionally, the OL-A conducts classroom and hands-on training to fuels specialist from all major commands ensuring member’s readiness prior to deployments.

“FORCE was designed to replace technology from the 1960s adding increased fuel receipt and delivery capabilities to match the ops tempo our troops face in today’s Air Force,” stated Oscar Neverson, 49TH MMSS/OL-A director. “FORCE is a mobile modern day fuels hydrant system and is the bread and butter for day to day fuels operations at deployed locations.”

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

MacDill Lanes

Family Fun Friday! 8 p.m.-midnight. Games! Prizes! Snack Bar Specials!

Saturday-Sunday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

Kids Play FREE! (8-17yrs) after 12 p.m. No registration necessary with a paid adult.

Monday-Friday

Base Library

Teen Tech Week from 3-5 p.m. Call for more info 828-3607.

Monday & Wednesday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

2 for 1 Golf after 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday

MacDill Family Resource Center

Spouse-2-Spouse from 9:30-11 a.m. Open conversation about issues relating to deployments and an opportunity to meet new friends.

Tuesday & Thursday

Bay Palms Golf Complex

FREE Active Duty Clinic from 12-1 p.m.

Wednesday

Airman & Family Readiness Center

Youth Resume Writing from 4:30-7 p.m. For students 15-21 who are writing their first resume.

Thursday

Airman & Family Readiness Center

Exceptional Family Member Program Parent Meeting from 10-11 a.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Short Fitness & Sports Center

Prenatal Fitness Class at 3 p.m.



Photo by Nicole Bobson

The United States Air Force assistant surgeon general for Medical Force Development, Maj. Gen. Kimberly A. Siniscalchi and Ron Hytoff, president and CEO of Tampa General Hospital, sign a Training Affiliation Agreement Feb. 24 at the hospital. The Nurse Transition Program will start this summer and is a hands-on training internship providing newly graduated nurses with the clinical training and experience needed to become U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps officers. Also in attendance to sign the TAA were Col. Dennis Beatty, the 6th Medical Group commander, and Kathi Senign Katz, Tampa General Hospital senior vice president and chief nursing officer.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant services

Sunday - 9 a.m. - Praise Worship Service

9 a.m. - FamCamp Traditional Service (Nov.-March)

Noon - Gospel Service

5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. - Mass

Monday to Thursday: 12:10 p.m. - Mass

Catholic services

Saturday - 4:30 p.m. - Confession

Islamic services

Friday - 1:15 p.m. - Prayer Service

AT THE MOVIES

\$4 for adults / \$2 for children 828-2780

Friday - 7 p.m.

True Grit (PG-13)

Saturday - 3 p.m.

True Grit (PG-13)

Saturday - 7 p.m.

Country Strong (PG-13)