

THUNDERBOLT

WWW.MACDILL.AF.MIL



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AIRMEN MISSION COMMUNITY TEAMMATES



A tasty event - page 10

Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Members of Team MacDill stand in line for free samples of food from various restaurants during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center on MacDill Air Force Base, Monday. The event included complimentary food samples from more than 20 great Tampa Bay and base restaurants, live band and DJ, free medical screenings, a medical inflatable heart exhibit, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment mock-tail bar.

COMMAND CORNER



America's military: the arm of freedom

by Lt. Col. Chad Daniels
911th Air Refueling Squadron commander

On September 11, 2001, I was enjoying a book on my bunk during a “down day” on my first deployment as a KC-135 crew member to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

In the middle of my page, I heard a commotion in the common area. An aircraft had just crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. We assumed a commercial airliner had an emergency, rendering the aircraft incapable of flight and collided with the tower. The other aircrew members and I all offered our theories as to what may have caused the accident on such a beautiful, sunny morning.

Suddenly, and surreally, while the cameras were still focused on the first tower, the South Tower was hit by another commercial airliner in plain view of the world. Horror ensued in NYC and fear set in throughout America. We realized that we were under attack. From this point forward our collective lives changed, shaped and molded by the events of 11 September,

known to most simply as 9/11.

The events of 9/11 transformed the average U.S. citizen's national outlook from one of economic prosperity, security, and invincibility to one of fiscal uncertainty, fear of lost national security and general concern about the future. Just like the attacks on Pearl Harbor, we had been surprised by a strike on our homeland. Just as in 1941, the fear and uncertainty of 9/11 soon gave way to anger, resolve and the galvanizing of our nation. Collectively our Nation was determined to identify the perpetrators of this cowardly assault on our way of life, then, punish them, using her military, whatever the cost.

The events of 9/11 forced America to reflect on who we are, what we're made of and what our role is in the world. Though brought about in tragedy, this caused reflection is nothing new for our great nation.

In the mid- to late-18th century, the 13 colonies considered very similar questions. They decided together that Americans were free to decide our future and “way ahead” as a nation; we then resisted the powerful monarchy of Great Britain and militarily proved our re-

solve.

More than 80 years later, when the U.S. was again divided by seemingly insurmountable political, social and economic upheaval, Abraham Lincoln moved militarily to prevent a break up of our nation thereby preserving the union and ensuring a unified, strong America, where all could prosper equally.

In the WWI, America heard a call for help from our allies and then willingly fought to combat evil in Europe. Many Americans lost their lives in WWI and the American public seemed to lose its desire for international intervention.

Due to the heavy cost of WWI, America would need a significant “nudge” to become involved in WWII, which came as a “shove” with the attacks on Pearl Harbor. After wading into the conflict in Europe and the Pacific, we demonstrated our commitment to freedom's cause, defending these ideas alongside our brave allies, winning the greatest struggle against tyranny our nation has known.

Following WWII, as Russia wished doom on our defeated foe Germany, Americans stepped in to secure, stabilize and reconstruct



Lt. Col. Chad Daniels

their nation. The “Marshall Plan” encouraged future investment in Germany. Now, some 70 years later, the society of Germany is a superb example of productivity, freedom, security and international influence.

As our WWII alliance with Russia crumbled and it succumbed to the false promise of communism, the U.S. drove headlong into an

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

The Action Line provides 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. Email macdillwingcommander@us.af.mil.



MacDill on the web

Website: www.macdill.af.mil

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MacDillAirForceBase

Instagram: [macdill_afb](https://www.instagram.com/macdill_afb)

Twitter: [@macdill_afb](https://twitter.com/macdill_afb)

MacDill Thunderbolt

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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.



6th Med Group swimmer places first, delivers for team

by Lt. Col. Jay Vietas

6th Medical Support Squadron commander

Captain Michael Schultz, 6th Medical Support Squadron pharmacist, returned victorious from the 2014 Headquarters Allied Air Component Command swimming championships held at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, June 25-27.

Schultz finished first in both the 200-meter freestyle and the 400-meter freestyle, helping the U.S. men's team win the overall meet for the first time in 10 years.

Schultz was one of nine men selected to participate in the competition. Selection was based on official times in competitions held the previous three years.

The event is part of the Inter-Nation Sports Programme, which brings together the contributing nations within the HQ AIRCOM in an atmosphere of friendly competition. The U.S. Air Force team competed against Air Force teams from Belgium, Germany, Poland, England and the Netherlands.

Schultz, who grew up in New Berlin, Wisconsin, has been swimming competitively since he was 6. He won two state championships in high school and was a three-time NCAA All-American in college.

"Swimming has played a major role in my life for the past 18 years, so being able to represent the U.S. Air Force at an international competition was truly an honor," Schultz said.

Leading up to the competition, Schultz and his teammates spent three days training and team building at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. Fully prepared for the challenge ahead of them, the 16-member team (seven women and nine men) headed to Geilenkirchen.

Activities at Geilenkirchen began with a tour of the base and an additional training session before the official opening ceremonies. The opening ceremony began with each of the six participating nations marching in to their national anthem, which was played by the Geilenkirchen band. Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Muller, commander of the NATO E-3A Component at

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Courtesy photo

Captain Michael Shultz, 6th Medical Support Squadron pharmacist, with swimming trophies he won in the 200- and 400-meter freestyle competition held recently at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

CENTCOM personnel celebrate life of co-worker

by Sgt. Fredrick Coleman

U.S. Central Command

U.S. Central Command personnel gathered to celebrate the life of Michelle R. Hayes during a memorial service Aug. 27.

Michelle, born and raised in Tampa, was a Northrop Grumman employee who provided training services to USCENTCOM's Exercises and Training Directorate. To the personnel of USCENTCOM, Michelle was one of the first faces in-processing personnel met during the USCENTCOM Staff Orientation Course. Michelle was known for being a kind and resourceful.

"She called what she did for the service members 'customer service.' I called it being Michelle," said co-worker Ron Quave.



USCENTCOM photo by Sgt. Fredrick J Coleman

U.S. Central Command personnel gathered to celebrate the life of Michelle R. Hayes during a memorial service Aug. 27 at MacDill Air Force Base.

WEEK IN PHOTOS



The Clearwater delayed entry program takes a KC-135 Stratotanker static tour Friday, at MacDill Air Force Base. The future Air Force recruits each brought along a family member to learn more about the Air Force and its mission.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Tori Schultz

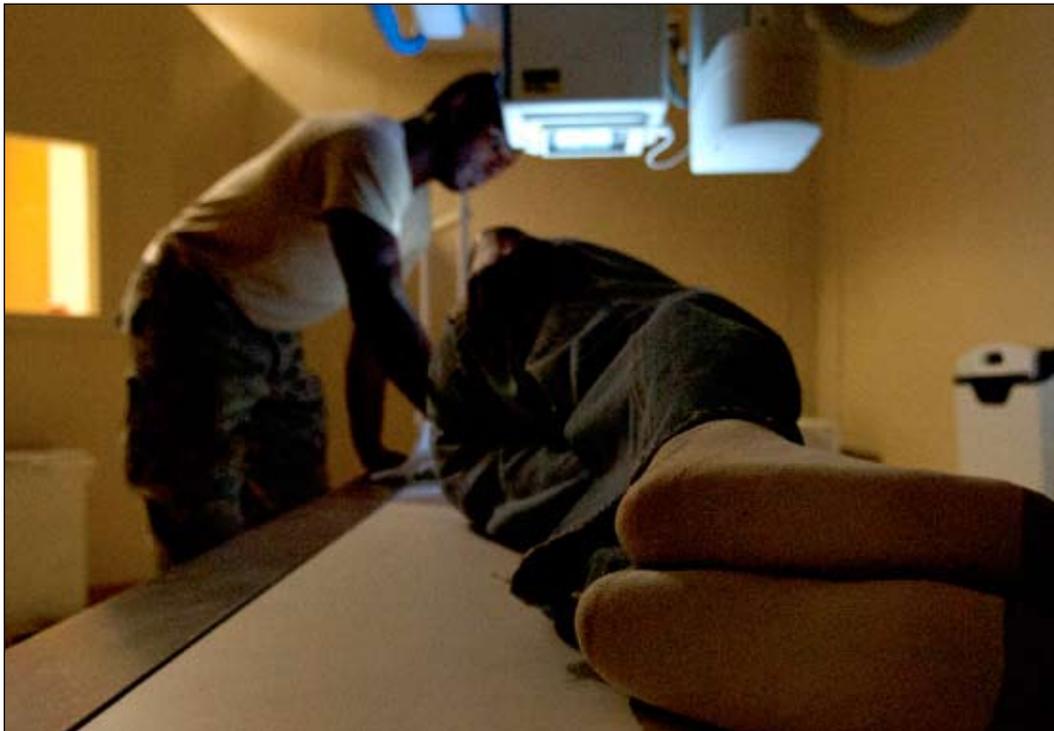


Photo by Senior Airman Jenay Randolph

Senior Airman Terron Powell, 6th Aerospace Medical Support Squadron X-ray technician, assists in patient preparation for a conventional X-ray Sept. 2, at MacDill Air Force Base. The X-ray is used to examine spines, shoulders, and hands amongst other things.



Photo by Senior Airman Jenay Randolph

Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Lusson, 6th Air Mobility Wing command chief, presents Senior Airman Erik Dillon, 6th Operations Support Squadron, with a certificate for being appointed the Airman of the Month for not only the 6th AMW, but Air Mobility Command as well, Sept. 3, at MacDill Air Force Base.

NEWS/FEATURES



An Air Force ambassador: Master Sgt. Leon White

by Senior Airman Jenay Randolph
6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

Day in and day out people enter a recruiting office wanting information about joining the United States Air Force or curious about what it has to offer. If they were to stop by the recruiting office in St. Petersburg, Florida, Master Sgt. Leon White would be there to greet them.

White became a recruiter in January, so he is fairly new to the world of recruiting. Prior to this, he worked in maintenance as an aircraft armory assistant apprentice for more than 10 years. Transitioning from maintenance to recruiting was a big change for him.

“Recruiting isn’t what I expected it to be. It’s busy and challenging,” said White. “With this job you have to learn how to be flexible and ready to do things when you least expect them.”

“Unlike maintenance, recruiting doesn’t have technical orders that give you the step-by-step process.”

According to White, recruiting is rewarding, but it also has its challenges. Having the ability to help a recruit get the job they want is the biggest reward for recruiters. On the other hand, there is the downside of not being able to help everyone.

“I would love to have everyone be a part of the Air Force, because they



Photo by Senior Airman Jenay Randolph

Master Sgt. Leon White, St. Petersburg Air Force recruiter, briefs a member of the Delayed Entry Program about preparation for Basic Military Training, Aug. 27, in St. Petersburg. Recruits enter the DEP while they wait to receive a career or a ship date to BMT.

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Duo of pros professionally enhancing careers of Airmen

The MacDill Professional Development Center is unique in the aspect that it offers more than four times more professional development opportunities of the average base.

Consisting only of a career assistance advisor and a First Term Airman Center team lead, the PDC team's job can get a little overwhelming at times, but between Senior Master Sgt. Melissa Walters, 6th Force Support Squadron career assistance advisor, and Staff Sgt. David Halais, 6th FSS FTAC team lead, the job gets done.

"It's approaching two years for me as a career assistance advisor and it's an amazing job," Walters said. "It's great because I continuously get to give back and provide opportunities to Airmen and see them capitalize on those opportunities, whether it's retraining, getting selected for a special duty or even just coming to a leadership class and seeing things from a different perspective."

On top of the mandatory courses, the MacDill PDC offers a plethora of leadership and

team-building opportunities. Among these are Airman Professional Enhancement courses, a Company Grade Officer Professional Enhancement course, six John Maxwell leadership courses, writing clinics and ready for promotion clinics that focus on Air Force enlisted promotions.

"On a quarterly basis, we offer 16 to 17 different professional development opportunities," Walters said. "So throughout the year, we usually have over 70 opportunities for people to come for anything from a two-hour class to a four-day class for professional development."

There are many jobs at MacDill and when they all come together at the PDC and talk about leadership it provides a rare perspective.

"I got the opportunity to come here and I didn't know what the job entailed, because the mentality here is different from that of a maintainer due to the structure," said Halais. "I thought it was only FTAC, selecting briefers and that would be it, but this job has enhanced



Photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Conde

Staff Sgt. David Halais, 6th Force Support Squadron First Term Airman Course team lead, briefs the new FTAC class at MacDill Air Force Base, Tuesday.

my leadership skills, provided me with more professional growth and given me the opportunity to mentor the new generation of Airman in the Air Force."

Their mission requires them to be very organized.
See **ENHANCE**, Page 12

Airmen get a 'taste' of MacDill

by LeAnn Throlson

6th Air Mobility Wing community support coordinator

On Sept. 8, MacDill Air Force Base paused day-to-day operations to reinforce the Wingman concept by conducting an Integrated Delivery System wingman day.

The morning kicked off with unit commanders' calls and members participating in small group discussions encompassing the social domain and diversity. Airmen connected by talking about instances when they felt different from everyone else, and also discussed how others played a role in meeting personal and professional goals.

Wingman day continued with the opportunity to develop social skills by participating in the "Taste of MacDill" Comprehensive Airman Fitness event at the Short Fitness & Sports Center. Participants had a chance to sample foods, listen to live music, and connect with several base helping agencies as well as multiple local resources.

Joan Craft, the Health Promotion Flight Chief at MacDill, took the lead on the event and intentionally incorporated agencies that provide means to develop physical, social, spiritual, and mental fitness.

Airmen and family members can continue to build resiliency skills and learn tools to tackle life challenges by participating in the Air Mobility Command Leadership Pathways program. Leadership Pathways (LP) allows individuals to earn LP credit for taking classes to become better equipped to deal with military life and support those around them.

Additionally, Leadership Pathways is a recognition system that distinguishes participants as a Wingman, Leader, and Warrior for completing 10, 20, and 30 LP credits through three tiers.

Individuals can find information on MacDill helping agencies at www.macdill.af.mil/integrateddeliverysystem or register for MacDill helping agency classes at www.tinyurl.com/macdill-lp.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Charlene Austin, wife of Gen. Lloyd Austin United States Central Command commander, and Holly Tulley, wife of Col. Daniel Tulley, 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, view New Family Support brochures and pamphlets during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center on MacDill Air Force Base, Monday. The event included the Orange Theory Fitness Challenge, Jackson in Action 83 Foundation, USO, 211 Crisis Center, Military One Source, base agencies and more.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Senior Airman Branden Jones, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron, picks up a hat from the 6th Civil Engineer Squadron during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center on MacDill Air Force Base, Monday.

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Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

John Fowler, Harbour Island Athletic Club trainer, counts down for Senior Airman Gabriel Gonzalez, Medical Support Squadron, and Senior Airman Kelsey Shaw, 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron, as they do plank push-ups for one minute during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Monday.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Various base agencies display brochures and pamphlets during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center on MacDill Air Force Base, Monday. MacDill AFB hosted a base-wide Wingman Day Health Fitness Expo.



Photo by Senior Airman Shandresha Mitchell

Alan Thomas, bassist and contractor for the Alan Thomas Group, performs during the Taste of MacDill event at the Short Fitness Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Sept. 8. The event included complimentary food samples from more than 20 great Tampa Bay and base restaurants, live band and DJ, free medical screenings, a medical inflatable heart exhibit, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment mock-tail bar.

BRIEFS



Retiree Activities Day approaching

The Retired Activities Office is concluding summer activities and is now welcoming the visitors from the North.

Retiree Activities Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All areas of the base will be open during this event. At 10 a.m., a special guest will sing the National Anthem along with a presentation from the base Honor Guard. Immediately following, there will be a cake cutting at the Food Court in the Base Exchange. The cake will then be given out to anyone wanting to partake. During the event, the following resources will be available:

- ◆ Retired Activities Office along with a Veteran's Affairs representative
- ◆ Legal Office 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- ◆ Pass and ID card section

(Note: In regards to ID cards, customers will now need an appointment and can reach the ID card section online at www.tinyurl.com/macdillcard.)

- ◆ The clinic and pharmacies

(Note: The Tricare office's services are no longer available in the clinic.)

- ◆ The Diner's Reef dining facility will not be available due to renovations, but there will be a Meals on Wheels truck available in front of the clinic

Remember that there are tax counselors in the office every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for anyone who desires tax work to be done. Walk-ins are welcome 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The office is also currently looking for volunteers.

ENHANCE

From Page 8

nized and have proficient time management skills.

"It's a very busy job that requires a lot of research," said Walters. "Every Airman's situation is a little bit different, so if an Airman is asking me a question about retraining, special duties or opportunities available to them, they all require some research to help them get the right answer; it's very time consuming and challenging, but it's also very rewarding."

The career assistance advisor is a three-year special duty billet and each quarter an FTAC team lead rotates in for a short period before another team lead begins to transition into the slot.

"It's impressive because of all the work they do here in comparison to other bases," Halais said. "I thought when I came here I would just be doing desk work, but it's much more.

"I have a newfound respect for the Airmen who fill these positions."

WHITE

From Page 6

have volunteered by just walking in the door,” said White. “However, we’re just not able to do that and it’s very unfortunate and hard to do at times.”

As a recruiter, it’s important to ensure that the right people are placed into the right Air Force Specialty Code in order for the mission of the Air Force to be accomplished. In addition, recruiters have the responsibility of helping to shape the Air Force for the future.

“For us it’s about meeting the needs of the Air Force,” said White. “Sometimes that can be difficult because applicants come in knowing what they want, but we have to balance their needs with the needs of the Air Force.”

In order to ensure that recruits are ready, White has established good working relationships with the local community and members of MacDill. He is able to do physical training at the local gyms and bring the recruits on tours of the base to get a glimpse of what military life

SWIM

From Page 3

Gielenkirchen, provided the opening remarks. Athletes were then given time to socialize with athletes from the participating nations.

“It was an amazing feeling to march in to our national anthem and stand among competitors from the other nations,” said Schultz. “It gave me a small glimpse of the thrill it must be to represent your country in the Olympics.”

On competition day, team USAFE was ready to swim. The 16-member team was dominant, with the women finishing first for the fifth consecutive time and the men upsetting Germany

is like.

“MacDill has been a huge help in preparing my recruits,” said White. “The base has a lot of tools that we use to help in recruiting, to include touring the base, and public affairs allowing us to hold voice auditions for recruits interested in entering the broadcasting field.”

Overall, White likes to make sure that there are good relationships with the recruits. He prepares them for basic military training, and keeps them motivated and educated on what potentially is in store for them in the Air Force.

“Although it can be hectic and busy, it feels good to know that I am making an impact,” said White. “Since I first joined the Air Force I always wanted to leave my mark,” said White. “Now I am an ambassador; I am the first thing that people are going to see when they want that picture of the Air Force, and I feel it is important for us to make sure we show them the best part.”

to finish in the top spot for the first time in 10 years.

The day concluded with medal presentations and a banquet.

“Representing the United States Air Force at this competition was an amazing experience,” said Schultz. “I was honored to meet my fellow competitors from the U.S. team, as well as those from the other participating NATO countries. I hope I have an opportunity to represent the Air Force in future competitions through the Inter-Nation Sports Championships and the Air Force Sports program.”

MACDILL COMMUNITY



EVENTS

Friday

MacDill Lanes & Family Fun Center

Club Membership Appreciation, 6-8 p.m., with door prize drawings, cosmic lighting and sound. All Club members and their family members bowl free. Call 828-4005 for more information.

Youth Center

Smart Girls Lock In (Air Force World-Wide Lock-In) from 6-10 p.m. Open to girls ages 9-12; \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members. Sign up at the Youth Center between 2-5 p.m., Mon-Fri. Call 828-7956 for more info. <http://tinyurl.com/k6y7pvg>

Sunday

MacDill Lanes

NFL Sunday Ticket – Watch all the games. Open 12-9 p.m. Food and drink specials, bowling specials, billiards, darts and corn hole. For more information call 828-4005.

Thursday

Surf's Edge Club

Membership Dinner from 5-8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome, club members free • Spouse \$14.95 • Non-Members: \$16.95

Base Theater

Free movie: "The Amazing Spider Man 2" at 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome and feel free to bring your own food and drink.

Dining options

Diner's Reef closed for HVAC renovation. Where to Eat? For more information, menus and hours of operation, log on to: tinyurl.com/macdilleats

Find out what's going on MacDill log onto www.macdillfss.com



Photo by Airman 1st Class Carly Thompson

Seniors tour

Members from Robert Roadies retirement community pose for a group photo by a KC-135 Stratotanker during a tour of MacDill Air Force Base, Friday. Retirement community members also toured the Crash Fire Station and observed a military working dog demonstration.



CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant service

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Contemporary Service

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - FAMCAMP Service

Islamic service

Friday - 1:30 p.m. - Muslim Prayer Service

Call the chapel at 828-3621 for more information or visit the chapel web site at <http://www.macdill.af.mil/macdillchapel>.

Catholic services

Saturday - 5:30 p.m. - Mass

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Mass

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



EXCHANGE
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

CORNER

From Page 2

arms race for national survival and of protection of freedom worldwide, together with our allies. After struggling against the Soviet Union for nearly four decades, ultimately we prevailed, winning the Cold War and proving democracy and free market commerce superior. This victory left the U.S. standing alone as the world's sole "superpower."

When Saddam Hussein attacked and invaded Kuwait, the U.S. military was sent in, now comfortable with our burgeoning role as a protector of nations and stabilizer of global commerce. After quickly and decisively liberating Kuwait, the U.S. military withdrew from Iraq, but remained engaged in the Middle East as protector and guarantor of security and stability. Regional and global commerce flourished.

Following the events of 9/11, America was forced to wake from her peaceful rest. We pursued, then brought justice upon those responsible for the NYC terror attack, culminating with the mission to kill or capture Osama Bin Laden. As in preceding conflicts, the U.S. military bore the lion's share of the work in dangerous and difficult conditions while playing a starring role in the eventual success. Our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines fought bravely against evil men, bent on destroying freedom and enslaving people beneath twisted and narrow views of religion. The U.S. once again, demonstrated its resolve to fight to defend our way of life and to secure liberty for generations to come.

Now, once again, threatening storms are on the horizon. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria threatens global stability. China seeks regional hegemony within the South China Sea and beyond. Russia bullies its neighbors militarily with disastrous potential for the Ukraine and other Eastern European nations. Our role as protector is now again being

called upon.

Now and in the future America's military will likely be required to protect the homeland, stabilize regions and to secure and preserve freedom around the globe. The USAF will play a lead role in these efforts. When "tapped on the shoulder" by the National Command Authority, we will confidently project power abroad, enabling the tenets of Airpower, such as Global Attack, Rapid Global Mobility, Agile Combat Support, Precision Engagement, Humanitarian Relief, Nuclear Deterrence, and Special Operations.

As after 9/11, the proud and storied KC-135 family stands alongside our mission partners, ready to provide global air refueling, airlift and AEROMEDEVAC support, "anytime, anywhere." Our USAF's air refueling capabilities are distinctively unique. While other nations may have some air refueling mission capability, none matches our flexibility, volume and wide-range of enabling effects. We multiply the effects of nearly every tenet of USAF airpower, which makes the U.S. a truly "global superpower." We at the 911th Air Refueling Squadron are very proud of the role we play as enablers of so many varied, valiant and critical missions.

As the 13th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, may we all never forget our history, the victims of injustice, nor the sacrifices of the fallen. Let us always remember our nation's greatness, our benevolence towards those in need and our selfless sacrifices on the altar of freedom. Our mission is to secure peace and stability by projecting strength abroad, to defend our homeland and to ensure freedom for America and other nations. If not America, then who will do it? The truth is simple; there is no other nation like ours in history and we are America's military, the arm of freedom.