

# FALCON FLYER

Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing  
Vol. 5, No. 4

## *Air* April 2014 *Creed*

I Am an American Airman.  
I Am a Warrior.  
I have Answered My Nation's Call.

I Am an American Airman.  
My Mission is to Fly, Fight, and Win.  
I Am Faithful to a Proud Heritage,  
A Tradition of Honor, and a  
Legacy of Valor.

I Am an American Airman.  
Guardian of Freedom and  
My Nation's Sword and Shield.  
Its Sentry and Avenger.  
I Defend My Country with My Life.

I Am an American Airman:  
Wingman, Leader, Warrior.  
I Will Never Leave an Airman Behind,  
I Will Never Falter, and  
I Will Not Fail.



# A diamond in the rough



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Submission deadline for the March 2014 issue is February 15. Articles must be submitted electronically to 94AW.PA@us.af.mil. For more information, contact Public Affairs at 678- 655-5055.



## Community support

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Smith, 94th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, demonstrates firearms to guests Akhtor Sadiq and Douglas Schultz during a Cobb Chamber Business After Hours March 5. Over 1000 attendees had the opportunity to network and gain a better understanding of the day-to-day activities and critical missions performed at Dobbins. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



ON THE  
**COVER**

Master Sgt. Travon Dennis, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, reiterates the Air Force Creed to a junior Airman. Dennis was recently selected 94th Airlift Wing and 22nd Air Force first sergeant of the year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)

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#### Wing Commander's Hotline

Provides wing members with a direct link to the wing commander to relay kudos, concerns or suggestions on wing matters.

(678) 655-9422

#### Weather Emergency Hotline

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# Not just spoken, but lived

By Lt. Col. Brett D. Hanson  
94th Civil Engineering Squadron  
acting commander



Failure is a compelling learning tool. It is a natural part of life and learning. Like many of you, I have come to grips with failure, but the most troublesome failures I've experienced were personal

failures that were a result of my own character.

Many times the failure traces itself to the simple but powerful values that I signed up for when I raised my right hand many years ago.

Not ironically, it is in failure that the Air Force first began pushing the concept of core values almost four decades ago. The Air Force Academy codified the three core values in the early 1980s.

Although the Air Force core values were formally established in the 1990s, their history can be traced back to the early 1970s, when Gen. John Ryan penned a commander's policy letter detailing the importance of integrity in response to a scandal involving the alleged illegal air war over North Vietnam. His response was not regarding a failure to follow regulations; it was a response to a failure of the core values of command and leadership.

"Every commander depends on accurate reporting from his forces. Unless he is positive of the integrity of his people, a commander cannot have confidence in his forces," he wrote. "Without integrity, the commander in chief cannot have confidence in us."

These statements apply to each of us regardless of our job title or responsibilities. A failure in integrity follows us up and down the chain of command.

Integrity strikes at the very cornerstone of personal and corporate trust. From

a practical sense, integrity makes our organization more trustworthy, efficient, and reliable. An organization of high integrity needs less oversight and by declaring integrity as the first core value, our senior leaders have stated where "true north" is on our moral compass.

The fact that core values cannot be "declared" by authority as if they are rules or regulations is evident. They are not what we follow, they are who we are. Therefore, integrity is something we must practice moment by moment in every aspect of our lives.

I am a simple man in a world more complex than I can hardly imagine. Excellent leadership and followership are far simpler to me.

*Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do*, can no longer be a motto or slogan we speak about. They must be values we embrace and live in every part of our lives.

Engineers lead the way!

## Eval process gets a facelift

By Capt. Sequoia Lawson  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 94th Airlift Wing officer and enlisted evaluation process will be streamlined thanks to members of the 94th Force Support Squadron Commander Support Staff.

Master Sgt. Kenya Stokes, 94th FSS force management chief, and Tech. Sgt. Quiana Johnson, assistant force management chief, conducted training for wing CSS members responsible for tracking performance reports for their units March 13-14.

The training was to refresh and restore standard operating procedures, to reduce discrepancies with evaluations, which have a direct effect on personnel assignments, promotions and retention.

"For some units, processing times for performance evaluations are really long and have become an issue of concern," said Johnson. "That's why we've designed a detailed training program to get to the bottom of this issue."

Staff Sgt. Alexandria Howard of the 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron welcomes the training.

"The best part of my job is seeing people re-blue," she said, referring to service members re-enlisting or retaining their military status. "Having their evaluations done right is a big part of that,"

she said.

Class participants reviewed applicable Air Force forms, regulations, and trained on credentials needed to gain access to required databases and websites.

Most helpful according to Tech. Sgt. LaToya Spencer of the 94th AW finance office was the detailed 52-point checklist provided as a resource to use when tracking evaluations. The quality control checklist addresses common errors that can cause delays in the evaluation process. It includes instructions from how to properly indicate a member's fitness information to the smallest details such as using the correct characters such as a zero instead of the letter "O".

"I've been here for a few years and sometimes you can become stagnant," said Spencer. "It's good to know that everyone's getting back on track. Evaluations are crucial to an Airmen's career. They can't go far without records being completed and correct."

Incomplete or inconsistent continuity were findings in many unit evaluation delays. Future training sessions are scheduled to be held quarterly.

While each unit is responsible for managing their internal processes, the 94th FSS force management staff will conduct staff assistance visits between quarterly training sessions if requested.

# AROUND THE PATTERN



Melvin Smith, 94th Airlift Wing chief of contracting, speaks at the Multi-Agency Small Business Industry Day at the Georgia Tech Research Institute Conference Center March 4. The event provided training to small business personnel, along with interaction with local agency Heads of Contracting Activity/Directors of Contracting. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, presents Capt. Melissa Greene, former 94th AW executive officer with a gift as she departs Dobbins Air Reserve Base March 13, and begins the next stage of her Air Force career. Green served as the 94th Mission Support Group executive officer 2009-2011, and as the 94th Force Support Squadron Personnel Systems and Readiness officer-in-charge. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, greets Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, commander, Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, March 24. Mills visited Marines at Navy Operational Support Center Atlanta and Bravo Company, 4th Marine Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



Airman 1st Class David C. Yancey, 94th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, monitors the indicator panel of a C-130 Hercules aircraft during a fuel transfer March 3. Dobbins recently switched from JP-8 to Jet A fuel, along with other units, projecting to save the Air Force millions of dollars annually. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



Recently promoted Staff and Master Sgts. were recognized during a NCO and SNCO Induction Ceremony here, March 2. The event was hosted by the Dobbins 56 Group and Top Three Organization. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration/Staff Sgt. Karla Lehman)



Contractors perform repairs to the Dobbins flightline taxiway A March 10. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)

(Top left to right) Master Sgts. Frando Patterson, Tharis Word, David Bridges and Senior Master Sgt. Steven Ross, and (Bottom left to right) Staff Sgt. Marquita Balom, Nicholas Demko, Sr., and Tech. Sgt. Angelina McIvor of the 94th Airlift Wing Education and Training Office, are recipients of the 2013 Air Force Reserve Command Nathan Altschuler Outstanding Education and Training Program Award. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



## Best in the business!

By Senior Airman Miles Wilson  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 94th Airlift Wing Education and Training office has proven itself to be among the best in the Air Force Reserve Command, recently being selected out of 33 wings to receive the Nathan Altschuler Outstanding Education and Training Program Award.

Over the last six months, the office has been undergoing dramatic changes, attempting to create a more functional and efficient workplace. Its hard work has paid off, surpassing all other AFRC education and training offices with only three full time personnel and three Reservists.

“We are very proud, and very happy to win this award,” said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Ross, 94th Force Support Squadron Education and Training superintendent. “When we started going for this, we definitely had goals, and it feels great to have met them.”

Ross admits the office was not always as proficient, and it took a lot of work to get

it to where it needed to be to be considered for the award.

“Before, the office was very unappealing,” said Nicholas Demko Sr., training technician, as he gestured at the surroundings. “The lights were all mismatched, and needed to be replaced. The computer systems were old and worn out, the systems in the training lab had no internet access, and the office was divided all around by the desk walls so that you couldn’t see anyone. We had to change all of that.”

The old lights were all replaced, the worn out and used computer systems were all replaced, providing twenty new computer systems for the computer lab, and all of the high desk separators were taken down and replaced with smaller ones. When everything was done, the office had a brand new appearance.

“When people come in here now, they have a positive feeling,” explained Demko. “Before, you couldn’t see the people sitting at their desks, but now it has a very inviting feel to it.”

Due to the changes in the office and the diligence of the manpower, the office stepped up from having a Unit Compliance Inspection rating of “marginal” to excellent for the first time in over 20 years. The office was also awarded the Air Force Reserve Command Compliance Inspection “Outstanding Team” award.

The team attributes its success to its teamwork and outlook for the office.

“Everyone here knows each job,” said Ross. “Maybe not as well as the person in charge of their area, but well enough to get things done if someone isn’t around. We all have the same outlook for this office, and we all know what we need to do. That is how we keep this office running.”

The office is striving to win the AFRC level award next year, and ultimately bring home the Air Force level award.

“We weren’t selected for the Air Force level award this year, but now that we’ve won at the Reserve level, we are aiming higher,” said Demko. “Next time, we will score even better”

# A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH



(Right) Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, congratulates Master Sgt. Travon Dennis, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, on completing a recent deployment to Camp Bastain, Afghanistan where he served as first sergeant for the 651st Air Expeditionary Group in Jan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin) (Left) Dennis serves as first sergeant for the 651st Air Expeditionary Group in Camp Bastain, Afghanistan Oct. 2013 - Jan. 2014 during two rotations, responsible to over 230 Airmen. Dennis was recently selected 94th Airlift Wing and 22nd Air Force First Sergeant of the Year. (Courtesy photo)

By James Branch  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

If being selected 94th Airlift Wing First Sergeant of the Year isn't hard enough, think about the challenge of competing for and being selected by both the 94th AW and 22nd Air Force. That's the case for Master Sgt. Travon Dennis, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant.

"This is an amazing feeling," Dennis said. "To be selected in such high regard amongst my peers is truly a humbling and rewarding honor."

Since becoming a first sergeant May 4, 2012, Dennis has been afforded the opportunity to mentor and influence Airmen of all ranks in his unit. He insists the number one factor in accomplishing such an achievement is being a part of such a great squadron.

"This is honestly the most rewarding job I have had in my Air Force career," he said. "I am exposed to all facets of my squadron and wing level operations."

"First sergeants must be self-starters," said Chief Master Sgt. Wendell Peacock, 94th Airlift Wing command chief. "Dennis has displayed the highest level of initiative, first by becoming a first sergeant and second, by volunteering to deploy and serve our Airmen overseas. He is very deserving of this award."

Things weren't always so simple at the beginning of Dennis' tenure. Like other positions within the Air Force, there are some unique challenges to being a first sergeant.

"Building relationships with the unit was challenge in the beginning," he said. "Learning the job, and the members in my squadron felt overwhelming during the first few months. I dove into the position full speed ahead, but no one knew who I was, or what I stood for, other than being the first sergeant, or "shirt". I made a constant effort to visit to each member's work section and

engage in practical conversation."

For Dennis, building relationships is not only limited to the inside, but extends outside of the squadron.

"It's important to treat each person with respect," he said. "It only takes seconds to ask someone how there day is going or how their family is doing. Face to face conversations help prevent potential communication conflicts."

A Macon, Ga. native, Dennis entered the Air Force Reserve Feb. 25, 1994 as a cook for the 94th Services Squadron, now known as the 94th Force Support Squadron. He was later assigned to the 622nd SVS, and 94th AW Public Affairs office as a photographer. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Visual Communications from American InterContinental University.

"First sergeants are the most called upon group in a wing," said Peacock. "They must have a desire to serve others."

Dennis encourages Airmen who want an opportunity to lead, and challenge themselves to explore the opportunity of becoming a first sergeant.

"Becoming a first sergeant will definitely make you a better Senior NCO, but if you are only doing it for the promotion opportunity, or for the prestige of the title, then this is not the job for you," he said.

Dennis insists that his priority is people, and extracting the best out of them.

"I recall an Airman that many had given up on," he said. He was listed as a bad seed. While talking with the Airman I realized he was just misunderstood. I took him under my wing and now he is thriving. I made that investment in him because I was once listed as a bad seed. I've received two letters of counseling and a letter of reprimand during my career. Never judge a book by its cover."

The 94th LRS first shirt's advice to Airmen, "Give your absolute all until you have nothing else left!"





Mr. Timothy Case, 94th Force Support Squadron chief of services, has team members excited about his vision to increase services activities on base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jaclyn McDonald)

# READY TO SERVE

**By Staff. Sgt. Jaclyn McDonald**  
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 94th Force Support Squadron welcomed Chief of Services, Mr. Timothy Case in February. Since his arrival, Case has been working to accomplish his number one goal, satisfying his customers.

Another goal of his is to expand the list of Services programs currently offered by Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

“Summer is approaching,” said Case. “Schools will be closed. Many people will be looking forward to vacations and getaways. I would love to provide more trips for families, as well as our single members.”

As a self-proclaimed, “people-person,” Case insists that is the trait that sets him apart from many.

“I am a huge people-person,” he said. “I value my customers – currently serving and retired Airmen, and the civilian population. I’m here to boost their morale, make them happy and keep them entertained. The support squadron has the best job in the Air Force, because our job is to make people happy, both on and off duty.

Case comes to Dobbins after serving as community support flight chief in Lajes Azores, U.S. Air Force Europe.

“Tim is a highly motivated individual who is a glass is half full personality,” said Lt. Col. David Dick, 94th FSS commander. “He is a customer service focused supervisor who has already improved

squadron morale and has the employees excited about his vision for the services we provide to the base.”

After serving in the U.S. Navy for 10 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy, Case joined the Department of Defense civilian workforce in 2001.

“I spent an extraordinary 10 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy,” he said. “I visited 41 countries. I served as a member of both White House Honor Guard and Arlington National Cemetery Burial Details, sailed on the USS Yarnell Guided Missile Cruiser in Norfolk, Va., and USS Devastator and USS Gladiator in Ingleside, Texas. I served as lodging manager for the Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tenn., and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 in Gulfport, Miss.”

He moved back home to Oklahoma after leaving active duty and worked at the Altus Air Force Base Dining Hall as a flex food service worker. While working in the lowest pay grade in the system, he washed pots and pans four hours every night.

“I applied for and was accepted as a General Schedule 5 at the Altus community center,” he said. “I worked my way up to community center director, then outdoor recreation director, where I was in charge of Information Tickets and Travel, the Air Force Club and lodging. I always wanted to be chief of services, to expand my knowledge of the industry.”

Dick has lot of ideas in store for Case, and Dobbins Services.

“The base is going to see an increase in activities for the Airmen including a new coffee shop, gym, and renovated club,” he said. “I spoke to multiple supervisors that he worked for prior to interviewing him. They extolled what an outstanding individual and supervisor that he is. I have already been quite impressed with his energy and make it happen attitude.”

After the initial shock of dealing with the Atlanta traffic, Case is looking forward to visiting different parts of Georgia.

“During my off time, I love to fish and spend time with Anna, my wife of 22 years,” he said. “I’m getting to know the area. I would love to see more of the state of Georgia and experience all it has to offer.”

When dealing with life, work and people, Case says it’s all about attitude.

“I’m always smiling,” he said. “Nothing can bring me down. Like many people, I’ve had challenges in life, but I also look at all of the positive things. That’s one thing you’ll observe about me. I’m always happy.”

Case claims it was easy to accept the job as Dobbins’ chief of services, because of the staff already in place.

“The staff in place right now is already performing at 100 percent in my opinion,” he said. The members at base lodging, the Consolidated Club, and outdoor recreation, to name a few, are outstanding. They’re motivated! My job is to keep them motivated. We’re a good team.”





Timothy Case, 94th Force Support Squadron chief of services, has a love for baseball. He led him to tryout for the Texas Rangers in 2001. He was one of the last three to be cut out of 153 applicants. (Courtesy photo)

By Senior Airman Miles Wilson  
94th Airmitt Wing Public Affairs

Timothy Case, 94th Force Support Squadron chief of services, has played baseball since he was four years old. Not only that, he had an opportunity to play for the Texas Rangers.

"In 2001, I received a letter from the Texas Rangers inviting me to a 10 day tryout, and they were only going to sign one person," said Case. "My family and I packed up and went to Arlington Stadium."

Case described the tryout process, detailing the numerous exercises and maneuvers participants were required to do.

"They lined us up in the outfield and assigned us numbers," he said. "I was number 52. We had to throw a baseball to second base, and believe me, it was a long throw. I didn't know if I could do it. We also had to go through a bunch of running exercises that were timed, and of course we had to show how good we were at batting."

The tryouts were very competitive, due to the fact that the Rangers needed to choose one person out of 153 others. People were eliminated as soon as the first day.

"When some people threw their ball to second, the coaches would watch, then give the person a herd look, and tell him to go home. By the time they got to me, I was so nervous!"

Throughout 10 days of tryouts, Case was determined and optimistic.

"I thought that I was going to be a Texas Ranger!" said Case. "I made it to the second to last day, and there were only 10 of us left. My family thought that I was going to be a Major League Baseball player."

Unfortunately, Case didn't make the cut. But, he did make it to the number four spot out of 153 other hand selected baseball players from around the country, an accomplishment that he still cherishes to this day.

"I'm glad that I made it as far as I did. It was a great experience," said Case. "I love baseball. I love the spirit, the camaraderie, and the teamwork. It is really a sport unlike any other. It taught me social, leadership, and cooperative skills that carry on throughout my career even now, something that no other sport can boast. If I had the chance, I would definitely do it a second time, even though I may get passed over again."

At the end of his interview, Case had one last thing to say, "Go Yankees!"



# IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

## Newcomers

The following Airmen were welcomed to the 94th Airlift Wing in March:

### Lieutenant Colonel

Michelle Tirado, 94 AEST

### Captain

Randall Gibbs, 628 AF

### First Lieutenant

Steven Ghim, 94 ASTS

### Chief Master Sergeant

Terry Studstill, 700 AS  
Michael Thorpe, 22 AF  
Jason Hawthorne, 22 AF

### Senior Master Sergeant

Mahase Prasad, 622 CEG

### Master Sergeant

Richard Moore, 94 ASTS

### Technical Sergeant

Andrew Peitrzak, 94 MXS  
Sharon Vassell-High, 94 ASTS  
Jeremy Ward, 94 MXS

### Staff Sergeant

Grant Goforth, 94 SFS  
Shorn Jones, 80 APS  
Corey Sanders, 94 SFS  
Matthew Staso, 94 SFS

### Senior Airman

Robert Jeans Jr., 94 OSS  
Nacoma Leon, 80 APS  
Andrew Park, 94 AW  
Michael Shaner, 94 MXS

### Airman First Class

Angelica Echols, 94 ASTS

### Airman Basic

Timothy Wright, 94 SFS

## Promotions

The following Airmen were promoted in March:

### Master Sergeant

Ostell Roberson Jr., 94 APS  
Gregory Meghoo, 80 APS  
Franklin Hylton, 94 CES  
Jamie Garcia, 94 MXS  
Jonathan Sadler, 94 MXS  
Michael Chambers, 94 SFS  
Geronte Watts, 80 APS

### Technical Sergeant

Christopher Ewing, 94 APS  
Craig Brumlow, 94 CES  
Peter Minca, 700 AS  
Trinita McNutt, 94 MXS  
Melissa McCormick, 94 LRS

### Staff Sergeant

Jeff Aucoin, 94 APS  
Yvonne Taylor, 94 FSS

### Senior Airman

Horace Daniel, 80 APS  
Lamont Nock, 80 SFS  
James D. Braswell, 80 APS  
William Steely, 80 APS  
Gale McCall, 80 APS  
Eric Jackson, 80 APS  
Miles Wilson, 94 AW  
Christopher Bishop, 94 SFS  
Jordan B. Johnson, 94 MXS  
Jacob Sullivan, 94 CES  
Ashton Cuttino, 94 LRS

### Airman First Class

Kyle McReynolds, 94 APS  
Jacob Slife, 94 APS  
Charles Ennis, 94 ASTS

### Airman Basic

Michael Brooks, 94 AMXS  
Jason Peebles, 94 APS  
Donterius Howard, 94 APS

Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator Saxby Chambliss & the Members of Georgia's Congressional Delegation invite you to meet representatives of America's Service Academies

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014 | 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**  
**DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE | HANGAR 5**

You **MUST** register by 5:00 pm on **May 2, 2014** by registering online at <http://isakson.senate.gov> or by calling Nancy Brooks at 770.661.0999. Registration will open March 1, 2014.

**ACADEMY DAY 2014**

STRENGTH DUTY HONOR LOYALTY SERVICE

## Course 14 tips for success

Course 14 is designed to provide Senior NCOs with the foundational concepts and principles required to succeed at increased levels of responsibility and leadership. It is highly recommended students approach this course as any other challenging college course. Mastering the material using good study habits is important to successfully complete the course.

Student Support is available via [www.aueducationalsupport.com](http://www.aueducationalsupport.com). Here are some keys to success:

1. Allow for plenty of time to study and master the material before taking the first test.
2. Focus on learning the concepts and principles rather than memorizing answers to sample questions.
3. Refer back to the course foundation module to increase your understanding of the course material.
4. Contact Student Support if you have any issues or need help.

## AFR School Selection Board deadline June 13

Air Force Reserve School Selection Board will convene July 14-18 at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley AFB, Colo. to identify the best qualified officers for placement in select academic courses.

Board members will evaluate applicants based on the whole person concept which includes depth and breadth of military experience, the applicant's professional qualities such as demonstrated leadership, academic achievements, developmental education as well as responsibilities that capitalize on the applicant's attendance at a specified course. The RSSB process complements the Air Force Reserve Force Development construct by aligning the best qualified applicants with selected courses. All school board selections will be based on the needs of the Air Force Reserve.

Please contact your local Military Personnel Section, Individual Reserve Readiness, and Integration Organization Program Manager or Commander's Support Staff as appropriate or call Total Force Service Center-Denver at 1-210-565-0102.

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## Soaring above the storms

By Chaplain (Maj.) Olga Westfall  
94th Airlift Wing Chaplain Office



Recently, I read a story about one missionary who was observing behavior of birds before a big storm. He noticed that all of the small birds felt the storm approaching and were trying to hide. He also noticed an eagle who took for a high spot and was facing the wind approaching.

As the storm came close it spread its wings and began to soar upward. Soon it was lifted above the storm. As the storm was raging below, the eagle was soaring above it.

God created this unique bird not to hide from the storms, but to use them as an opportunity to rise above them and soar. I believe we can learn some important principles from these raptors.

We cannot avoid the storms of life. They will come upon us. Storms of life can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time without advanced warning. However, the storms do not have to overcome us. Looking up, we can face the storms of life and be victorious.

It is not the burdens of life that weigh us down but it is how we handle them. We can rise above the storms of life and soar.

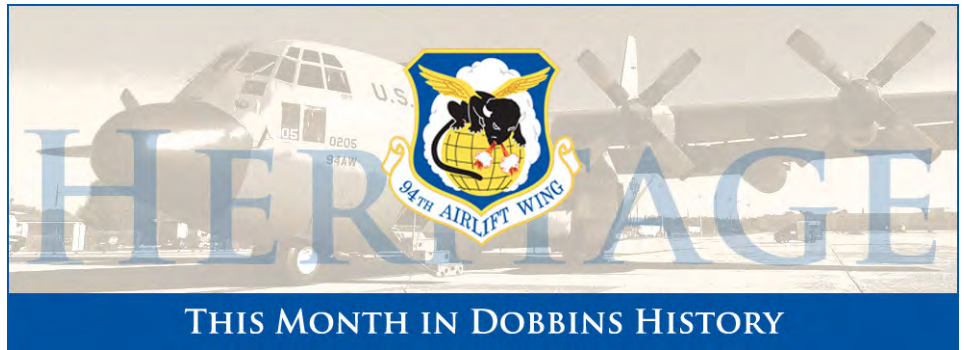
Stay focused, alert and patient.

***“But those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not go weary, they will walk and not faint.”***

*Isaiah 40:31*

*Worship services are held every Unit Training Assembl Sunday, 7:15 a.m. in building 838 Heritage Hall and 8 a.m. at the 80th Aerial Port.*

*Chaplains are available for spiritual counseling. Please contact the 94th Airlift Wing chaplain staff at 678-655-4995.*



## THIS MONTH IN DOBBINS HISTORY

### German Air Force visits Dobbins in 1986

By Lt. Col. Roland O. Reed  
94th Tactical Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Paul T. Sommerhoff, chief of the General Air Force Office of the German Air Force and a staff of four were guests of Maj. Gen. Sloan R. Gill, chief of the Air Force Reserve and Brig. Gen. William Basnett, 94th Tactical Airlift Wing commander, during a fact finding tour in Feb. 1986. The Germans were interested in developing a reserve component to supplement their active air force and were studying our organization, methods of operations and manning as a possible model.

General Gill arranged to show the German team how our Reserve force is organized, manned and operated with visits to fighter and tanker units at Dobbins, Hill and March Air Force Bases.

The 94th TAW visit was hosted by Basnett. Included were briefings about Dobbins, the 700th Tactical Airlift Squadron, and the 94th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Basnett welcomed the German officers to Atlanta, the 94th TAW and Dobbins in their native language. They responded with a thank you in English.

Highlights of the discussions were introductions and comments by Reservists explaining how they are able to fit reserve training into their already busy schedules. Speakers included Maj. Dave Grant, 94th CAMS commander, Maj. Neil Moulton, 700th TAS navigator, Tech. Sgt. George Frazier, 700th TAS flight engineer and Lt. Col. Jim Giles, 700th TAS pilot.

A southern lunch of fried chicken, collards and peas was served to our guests.



Brig. Gen. William W. Basnett, 94th Tactical Airlift Wing commander (left) and Maj. Gen. Sloan R. Gill (right), chief of Air Force Reserve, greet West German Air Force Lt. Gen. Paul T. Sommerhoff, chief of general air force office, as he arrives at Dobbins Air Force Base in Feb. 1986. (U.S. Air force photo/Tech. Sgt. Rick Ross - published April 1986 Dobbins AFB Minuteman)



# INNERview

John Mikula

(U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Karla Lehman)

**Job Title:** Exercise Physiologist  
**Years of Service:** 12  
**Hometown:** Coal City, Ill.

## What does your job entail?

I serve as the subject matter expert for the Air Force Fitness Program here at Dobbins, which includes exercise science, physical fitness, fitness-testing, and medical-fitness. I oversee the strength and conditioning programs at the Human Performance Center as well as directing the operations of the center.

## What is your most recent accomplishment?

Getting the base Human Performance Center up and running in December 2013. It's something the Force Support Squadron, Civil Engineering and myself have worked on for several years. To my knowledge, I don't know of many other facilities like it in the Air Force.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the journey of helping others to improve their fitness performance. It is very challenging and rewarding. I find myself asking, how can we fitness train more dynamically and cohesively, and how can we train in a more effective, efficient manner, and deliver more tactically fit Airmen, who are ready and resilient 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?

## What do you do for recreation?

Perhaps it is redundant, but fitness is a big part of my life at work and at home. However, there are other things I enjoy, too. I've always been musically inclined and play the bass guitar. I also have a graphics studio at home and design logos on the side for fun. My family and I love to travel, especially to anywhere warm and where there's some nice waves

coming in from the ocean.

## What's your favorite movie?

That's a tough one. I seem to enjoy a spectrum of genres, but my favorite movie is Hoosiers.

## What was your last assignment?

My last military assignment was Fort Ord, California, in 1985.

## What advice would you give someone who is interested in joining the military?

I would suggest thinking about the big picture of life. How can joining the military help advance you as a person to develop character and maturity? How can one gain employable skill-sets, competencies, and education while learning how to develop healthy professional networks and relationships that will benefit both military service and are viable in the private sector, too.

## Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

In the late 80's, I was a bass guitarist in the Los Angeles area for a heavy-metal band called Grudgemaster. I loved every minute of it, got a chance to play on some of the same circuits in the L.A. and Hollywood area that bands such as Metallica, Warrant, and Tesla had played. I helped write about 20 songs that our band showcased for various record label agents in the area, but we never got signed. After doing that for about five years, I decided to go to college and pursue a different career. I still love to play the bass and now my repertoire has expanded to playing jazz and bluegrass music.

*If you would like to nominate someone for the INNERview, please e-mail the editor at [94aw.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:94aw.pa@us.af.mil) or call Public Affairs at (678) 655-5055.*