WOMENS HISTORY MONTH HERCULES COMMUNITY COUNCIL PLAN AHEAD



JOIDS target junior officers

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



Run, hide, fight

Maj. Robert Mayes, 94th Security Forces Squadron operations officer, provides active shooter training to members of the 94th Airlift Wing staff Feb. 25. "If you are ever involved in an event such as this, you must be prepared," he said. "This training can save your life. You are a force multiplier. You can help Security Forces combat this threat." (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



Capt. Lydia Chebino, Individual Mobilization Augmentee for the 618th Air and Space Operations Center, Scott Air Force Base, III., participates in a field exercise at the Force Support Silver Flag Training Facility here, during a Junior Officers Leadership Development Seminar hosted by the 94th Airlift Wing Feb. 22. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Miles Wilson)

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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 (678) 655-2333

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FROM THE TOP

Planning; key to overcoming obstacles

By Lt. Col. Richard A. Briggs 94th Operations Support Squadron commander

Early in my career, my first commander shared a few words of wisdom that meant a lot to me.

He said, "Life will be easier if you remember that there is no justice, and timing is everything."

I thought those words were a little strange at first. What did he mean, there is no justice? Aren't we a country of justice? Shouldn't life be fair? And what about timing?

What he was trying to say was life isn't always fair, and sometimes it's about being in the right place at the right time. We can also end up in the wrong place at the wrong time. I've seen bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to bad people, but over time, I learned there was a pattern. The good things seemed to happen to those who planned ahead.

Planning ahead means taking charge of your career, and doing the things that will help you advance.

degree next year? It won't. Think you can



Education course until you can catch your breath? That extra breath never comes. It isn't easy, but if you complete it, you'll be better prepared for that next opportunity.

And how will you get that next opportu-Think it will be easy to complete that nity? Whatever you are doing right now, is the next opportunity. The assignment or adput off that next Professional Military ditional duty that your supervisor is tasking

you with now is an opportunity for you to learn a new skill, press your comfort zone, learn how to prioritize, and demonstrate your determination, skills and ingenuity.

Maybe it wasn't "fair" that the task was assigned to you, but maybe it will be the opportunity to showcase the skills that move you to the next level.

I think my commander was trying to tell me not to worry about the things I couldn't control, and plan ahead for the things that I could.

I'm blessed to work with so many talented and hard-working members in the 94th Airlift Wing. I'd like to offer my personal thanks for what you do and the sacrifice you make which takes valuable time away from your families.

Thank you for enduring the aspects of serving that isn't always as smooth as we would prefer. Thank you for overcoming those obstacles, getting up early on Saturday morning after a long week at work, donning the uniform, and driving through those gates with a spirit of enthusiasm for the tasks ahead of you.

Just remember, it's up to us what we do with the opportunities we are afforded. Let's do our best to make the most of them!

A "Herculean" effort

By James Branch 94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 94th Airlift Wing leadership hosted the Hercules Community Council for its quarterly meeting March 19 at the Dobbins Consolidated Club.

The meeting, conducted by Col. Marshall Irvin, 94th Mission Support Group commander, updated council members on recent base activities and issues, and highlighted the wing's tenant units and mission partners.

"We are the greatest military in the world because of you," Irvin said to the group. "You all make the economy move, and make Atlanta one of the most productive cities in the nation. It's important that you get involved with the things that are going on here."

Irvin discussed the recent Cobb Chamber After-Hours event, and the threat of force structure changes to Dobbins.

"Dobbins does not stand alone," said Irvin. "We have partners with whom we share our land, and runway, such as Lockheed



Col. Marshall Irvin, 94th Mission Support Group commander, updates members of the Hercules Community Council during a luncheon at the Dobbins Consolidated Club March 19. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek) Martin (Marietta)."

Col. James DeVere, 94th Operations Group commander, gave an update on the wing's participation in operations Coronet Oak and Maple Flag.

Army Lt. Col. Jay McNair, executive officer, Georgia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, closed out the presentations with an overview of the military counterdrug task force mission at Dobbins.



AROUND THE PATTERN



Senior Airman Vincent N. Willis, 94th Logistic Readiness Squadron, prepares to transfer aviation fuel into a transport truck March 1. The fuel center services aircraft assigned to Dobbins tenant units such as Army Reserve, FBI and the Clay Army National Guard Center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



Col. Marshall Irvin, 94th Mission Support Group commander, greets. Maj. Gen. H.D. Polumbo, Jr., commander, Ninth Air Force, Air Combat Command during his landing here Feb. 24. The general visited Lockheed Martin for simulator training. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



Brig. Gen. Allen Jamerson, director of security forces, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., presents Lt. Col. Timothy Martz, 94th Security Forces Squadron commander, with the 2013 Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Security Forces Full Time Unit of the Year Award Feb. 28. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, greets Gerald "Fred" Pease, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Feb. 24 during a visit to Dobbins and the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta. (U.S. Air Force photo/Brad Fallin)



Senior Master Sgt. Tania L. Banks, 94th Civil Engineering Squadron Command Support Staff superintendent, presents her mother, Mildred, with the Military Parent Medal during her retirement ceremony honoring 28 years of service, March 1. Col. (Ret) Reginald C. Stroud served as presiding officer for the event. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Miles Wilson)



Members of Girl Scout Troop 10743 donate 30 cases of Girl Scout cookies to 94th Airlift Wing first responders Feb. 26. The 94th Airlift Wing Honor Guard accepted the cookies on their behalf. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)

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Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Wright, 94th Mission Support Group superintendent, speaks during a Women's Heritage Month Luncheon at the Dobbins Consolidated Club March 2. A panel of female leaders, Col. Lourdes Almonte, special assistant to the 94th Airlift Wing commander, Lt. Col. Kerri Ebrecht, 94th Maintenance Squadron commander, Wright, and Senior Master Sgt. Tina Carlson, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, shared their military experiences, and recognized the contributions women have made to the Department of Defense. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Miles Wilson)

Celebrating character, courage and commitment

By Senior Airman Miles Wilson 94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 94th Airlift Wing Human Resource Development Council hosted a Women's History Month Luncheon March 2 at the Dobbins Consolidated Club to celebrate and recognize the contributions women, past and present, have made to the Department of Defense.

A panel of female leaders, Col. Lourdes Almonte, special assistant to the 94th AW commander, Lt. Col. Kerri Ebrecht, 94th Maintenance Squadron commander, Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Wright, 94th Mission Support Group superintendent, and Senior Master Sgt. Tina Carlson, 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, shared experience and knowledge with attendees.

"We want to explain the history of how women came into the military and some of the obstacles that they have faced and overcame," said Almonte. "There's a lot of experience among the four panel members, and we would like to share it with the military members here, to help them understand the challenges of being a female in the military."

HRDC member and event facilitator 2nd Lt. Sean Desouza, of the 94th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, showed videos highlighting servicewomen throughout the decades, and their many accomplishments.

When the panel was asked for advice to new female service members, Ebrecht answered immediately.

"The way to get ahead is to do your job, and do it well," Ebrecht explained, "As a female, you need to know that you are in a fishbowl, and that you may be scrutinized more than your male counterpart. That gives you the opportunity to excel." Members of the panel went on to explain how being a female has impacted their careers, and how it has benefitted them.

"I served on active duty for 12 years," said Almonte. "Unfortunately, as a hospital administrator, I was limited to the jobs that I could do. When I joined the Air Force Reserve, there were a lot more opportunities for me other than the medical field. I was more open to being a commander and an inspector general."

Wright spoke about her career as a servicewoman.

"I had to learn how to muster up the courage to talk with several males in key leadership positions," she said. "It was hard because of the resiliency working against me, but when I did, I was able to convince them that I could become a supervisor.

Women have incorporated themselves into almost every part of the military, participating in careers that were once male-dominance, such as aircraft maintenance.

"Enlisted opportunities still remain limited for females in the maintenance group," said Ebrecht, "but there are plenty of officer positions that we can fill."

"But career opportunities have opened up, and now women are working in areas where only men used to work," added Wright.

Each member of the panel suggested Airmen today think of one another not as male or female, but as members who have all sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

"When I walk into a room, I don't see male, female, black or white," said Ebrecht, "We are all in uniform. It's rank structure that I pay attention to. When it comes down to it, you do what you need to do as a leader, not necessarily as male or female."

According to its charter, the HRDC strives to create and maintain a fully developed, skilled, motivated, enthusiastic and diverse workforce through their lunch n' learn program.

March 2014



JOLDS TARGET COMPANY GRADE OFFICERS

By James Branch 94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Military leaders share a constant challenge of adapting to an ever-changing workforce, while upholding existing customs and traditions. Dobbins Air Reserve Base recently hosted a series of Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminars for 42 company grade officers, training them in leadership, teambuilding, cultural diversity, mobilization issues and military officership. zone, and help others maintain there's," he added. "If that triad gets off balance, future leaders will not bearound."Capt. Lydia Chebino, an IMA for the 618th Air and Space Operations Center described her Air Force career and reasons for attending the seminars.

"I'm what you call a moving target," she said. "I'm an active duty spouse, mother and government service employee. The Reserve triad means a lot to me. I'm attending this course to enhance my leader-



Reservists, Individual Mobilization Augmentees and Air Reserve Technicians experienced four days of officer and enlisted presentations, a field exercise and tour of Lockheed Martin Marietta.

Brig. Gen. Curtis Williams, 22nd Air Force vice commander and Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander briefed on their respective unit missions.

"You all come from many different backgrounds," Williams said to the group. "I want each of you to leave here with at least 10 classmate contacts. I am sure you will meet, hire or work for someone sitting among you in this room."

Williams spoke of the Reserve triad, a balancing act of the Reservist's civilian job, military job and "As military officers, you must find your comfort ship skills and explore more opportunities as an IMA."

Clark instructed attendees on how to lead in current Air Force environments.

"I'm inviting you into my world as a wing commander," Clark said. "You must nurture your career and practice absolute transparency. That's how you get promoted to Colonel, or even General."

He emphasized the importance of Professional Military Education, joint experience, being a subject matter expert in your field, and deployments.

"You must remain professional, flexible and able to take on new roles and responsibilities," he added.

Other seminars included a Q&A session on "Today's Air Force Reserve" by Maj. Gen. Mark A.

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Kyle, 22nd Air Force commander, "Mentoring and Effective Communication" by Williams, "Total Force" by Brig. Gen. Udo K. McGregor, Air Force Strategic Planning deputy director, "Generations" by Col. Marshall Irvin, 94th Mission Support Group commander, "The Air Expeditionary Force Now" by Col. Randall A. Bright, AFRC Plans, Programs and Requirements deputy director, "Deployed Leadership" by Lt. Col. Timothy Martz, 94th Security Forces Squadron, "Developing your Reserve Officer



Development Plan" by Maj. Julia Breeden, Air Reserve Personnel Center, and "A Chief's Perspective" by 14th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (Ret.) Gerald R. Murray.

"We've received a lot of training during the last four days," said Chebino. "The professionals involved with this course have not only equipped us with tools to advance our careers as Airmen, but to become better mentors and leaders."

Photos: Company grade officers from various Air Force Reserve Command units conduct land navigation, and recovery operations during a field exercise at the Force Support Silver Flag Training Facility here Feb 22. The 94th Airlift Wing hosted a series of Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminars Feb. 20-23. (U.S. Air Force photos/Don Peek and Senior Airman Miles Wilson)

For this Airman, it s Dersona

While deployed as a member of the Personnel Contingency Operations team, 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Kabul, Afghanistan, Tech. Sgt. Tonya Akins (kneeling, far left) served as a casualty officer and victims advocate for the Southwest Asia area of responsibility. (Courtesy photo)

By Senior Airman Elizabeth Van Patten 94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

"This woman has been sent directly from heaven," said Senior Airman Shawnyse Harris, 94th Force Support Squadron personnel specialist. "She inspires, because she lets us inspire her. She believes in us.

Modest to a fault, when Tech. Sgt. Tanya Akins, 94th FSS personnel specialist, is asked about her many accomplishments, she just smiles and credits those around her.

"I didn't do everything by myself," said Akins. "I am part of a team. I am inspired by my leaders, my subordinates and by people. Everyone has piece of this mission. I may not understand what you do, but I know it is an important piece. It's like baking a cake. When we put all the ingredients together, we will make a premier cake – we will be a premier wing."

Recently returned home from a deployment where she operated as a casualty officer in a forward-deployed

location in Southwest Asia, Akins is all smiles as she interacts with her FSS coworkers. Her only solemn moment was when she recounts her very serious job responsibilities.

"We processed a total of 47 casualties during a six-month period," said Akins. "We were the busiest hub in the area of responsibility. I have been really blessed with good teams to work with. While deployed, my team was the best (out of nine) consistently. We established some great processes that really sped up time and accuracy. We took our job seriously, because it was serious business, but we also loved helping people."

Akins was awarded a superior performance award for her work as well as Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. Lt. Col. David Dick, 94th FSS commander, also sees the greatness within his ranks.

"Akins is an outstanding NCO who is selfless and always willing to go the extra mile," said Dick. "She is the type of NCO who will stay late to help others without being asked and genuinely cares about the mission and

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Lam part of a team. I am inspired by my leaders, my subordinates, and by people.

Tech. Sgt. Tonya Akins, 94th Force Support Squadron personnel specialist, recounts events from her recent Southwest Asia deployment, where she served as casualty officer and victims advocate. She was awarded a superior performance award and NCO of the Quarter. Akins also completed her Ph. D dissertation, focusing on female veterans recovering from sexual traumas while deployed. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Miles Wilson)

KINS

the needs of others."

Providing leadership and expert job knowledge occupied the majority of her time; however Akins found extraordinary ways to spend her limited free time as well.

Prior to her deployment, Akins defended her dissertation for her Ph.D. She completed necessary revisions to receive her doctorate in Healthcare Informatics while deployed. Her dissertation focused on female veterans recovering from sexual traumas.

"Most of my research came from the veteran's community," said Akins. "Now, I am looking forward to doing medical research. I plan to study groups in future research, where before I studied individual females and how they used their Christianity to recover from sexual traumas."

She also became certified as a Department of Defense veteran's assistance coordinator and as a sexual assault victim's advocate.

Akins, clearly a proponent for continuing education, spent time teaching and coaching fellow Airmen through Professional Military Education courses.

She was involved with the Top 3 organization, of which membership is reserved for master, senior master, and chief master sergeants. Through the Top 3, she taught Leadership and Followership courses and Teambuilding courses.

"My grandfather told me, 'if you want to go to college, you need to get Uncle Sam to pay for it," said Akins with a laugh. "I think we should all strive to keep going, even after we've reached our initial goals. Continuing education is important. In every career field we have a responsibility to keep current and help keep each other current."

Akins also believes that education isn't just accomplished in a classroom. She is close to her family, especially her grandparents, whose working knowledge of the world she still seeks.

"I think all of life is a challenge," said Akins. "My sisters taught me how to turn challenges into opportunities. I am excited to be coming back to the 94th and implement some of the things I learned while deployed."

March 2014



<mark>TOUCH & GO's</mark>

Newcomers

The following Airmen were welcomed to the 94th Airlift Wing in Feb.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Peavler, 94 ASTS Troy Vonada, 22 AF

Major John Sannuto, 94 ASTS

Captain

Joseph Atkins, 94 AES Enrika Washington, ASTS Michael Martin, 94 AES Master Sergeant Marc Mood Jr., 94 CES

Technical Sergeant Andrew Peitrzak, 94 AMXS

Staff Sergeant Charles Tucker IV, 94 CES Michael Cammarano, APS

Senior Airman

Derek Bray, 94 AMXS Pauline Melvin, 94 CES Ronald Place Jr., 94 MXS Kevin Braniff, 94 AMXS Coreen Harvey, 94 FSS

Airman First Class

Uriah Cox, 94 AMXS Horace Daniel II, 80 APS Claudine Stafford, 94 ASTS Larice Sullivan, 80 APS Sheabrianna Vasquez, ASTS Miles Wilson, 94 AW Cierra Caleb, 94 SFS

Airman

Brandon Hollis, 628 CEF

Airman Basic

Miriam Hall, 94 CES Courtney Harvey, 94 AMXS



Beware of fake SmartDocs e-mail

Recently some myPay users received a fake e-mail asking for the answers to myPay security questions. Users should never share the answers to their myPay security questions with anyone. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service, myPay, or SmartDocs will never ask the user for this information. Sharing the answers to myPay security questions may can result in outsiders gaining access to myPay accounts. The fake SmartDocs e-mails came from *smartdocs@dfas-mil.org* and *smartdocs@dfas.mil.org*. Users who responded to this e-mail request with the answers to their myPay security questions, should log into myPay and change their security questions, and delete the message immediately. The official SmartDocs e-mail address is *SmartDocs@dfas.mil*. SmartDocs will never ask users to directly respond to an e-mail.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Focus on the positive

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jamie Danford 94th Airlift Wing Chaplain Office



I have a good friend who immigrated to this country from Ireland several years ago.

When we get together, he likes to share traditional Irish blessings.

Some of them are drinking toasts shrouded as blessings.

What I like about them is the good wisdom that is found within the words. He shared this one with me the other day:

"Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away. But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day."

A very important thing for us to do each day is to focus on that which is positive and minimize dwelling on the negative. This is not being false in dismissing wrongs or injustice, but it's a shift in our focus.

Think for a moment, and I believe you would agree, we spend a lot of our time dwelling on "troubles that passed away."

The meaning of that phrase is they are troubles that are already gone and cannot be changed. They are in the past and keep us bound only through memory. That baggage needs to be let go.

In doing that, we can then focus our mind to remember and count the blessings that come our way. We miss most of the blessings simply because we do not look for them. We are so busy looking down or back that we forget to look up. We all have blessings to be thankful for – look for them and then remember them daily.

May God continue to bless each and every member and family of the 94th Airlift Wing.

Worship services are held every UTA Sunday at 7:15 a.m. and 8 a.m. Contact the chaplain staff at 678-655-4995.



THIS MONTH IN DOBBINS HISTORY Dobbins salutes first SFS female member



This month, in honoring the extraordinary achievements of American women, Dobbins Air Reserve Base salutes its first female security police, Airman Andrea K. Taylor. After graduating from Rockmart High School in Rockmart, Ga., Taylor attended basic training and the Law Enforcement Specialist Course at Lackland Force Base, Texas. She joined the 94th Security Forces Squadron here in January 1975.



DOBBINS CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2000



Job Title: Executive Officer, 94th Mission Support Group Years of Service: 10 Hometown: Smyrna, Ga.

What does your job entail?

WATSON

I coordinate written and oral communication and policies to and from the 94th MSG commander. I oversee support staff operations and fill in for the 94th Airlift Wing executive officer during special projects.

What does Women's History Month mean to you?

It's a reminder to never forget our history. It's humbling to have an opportunity to be a part of such a phenomenal group of people who, through a common bond, work so diligently to be viewed the same their peers and uphold a legacy of honor, pride and courage.

How did JROTC and ROTC prepare you for your Air Force career?

They both helped me tremendously. They afforded me the opportunity to learn how to work with, and for others, understanding when and how to exploit resources. They also helped me understand how building relationships is essential to completing the mission.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the opportunity to communicate with others. I look forward to meeting and working with people from all over the world with an array of talents. I love learning from other people.

What's a recent accomplishment of yours?

I recently became a field grade officer. I've been blessed

with the opportunity to join the ranks of officers whom "see the whole field.' Being embraced in a group of peers whose focus is adapting and improving makes me feel like I've "made it."

(U.S. Air Force illustration/James Branch)

2013

What's most challenging for you being in the Air Force Reserve?

Bridging the communication gap between our Traditional Reservists, Air Reserve Technicians and civilian employees.

What do you do for recreation?

Hang out with my little ones.

What's your favorite movie?

School Daze

What was your last assignment?

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

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

Don't be afraid to explore multiple options until you find what best works for you.

What's been your favorite TDY or deployment?

My favorite deployment was to Joint Task Force-Guantanamo in Cuba.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.

My most rewarding job outside of home is being a health and wellness network marketer for It Works! Global.

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