

HCA TOUR

CBCS UNVEILING

HEAT STRESS

FALCON

FLYER

Magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing

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3rd Quarter 2015

Celebrating
32 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Port Dawg Memorial Run

Members of Dobbins Air Reserve Base lead the way during the Port Dawg Memorial Run at Dobbins ARB, Ga., May 3, 2015. Air transportation Airmen from the 94th Aerial Port Squadron, as well as members from other base units, participated in the run honoring fallen Airmen from their career field. The run was part of a coordinated event with other air transportation units from across the globe holding similar memorial runs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Daniel Phelps)



ON THE COVER

Col. Brett J. Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, exits a C-130 Hercules after completing his first flight at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., Nov. 19. Clark is responsible for over 2,500 wing personnel, and the entire installation comprised of 13 tenant units, including 22nd Air Force, Air Force Plant 6 and Lockheed-Martin, Georgia Army and Air National Guard and the Army, Navy and Marine Corps Reserves. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)(U.S. Air Force graphic/Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps)

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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

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FROM THE TOP

Flexibility - key to air power



By Col. Augusto Casado
94th Maintenance Squadron

As we prepare for the arrival of our new wing commander, I wanted to capture some thoughts to help us make a great first impression, set the right course, and lead into an uncertain future. Before I move in that direction, I want to take moment to thank Col. Brent Merritt for his leadership of our wing. He tackled a difficult challenge and led us through the transition of several key leaders moving on.

We are all leaders, whether junior enlisted, a civilian employee, a commander, a contractor, you name it. We all have spheres of influence and must always work to lead in those areas. We lead at home, at work, at school, in the community, at our places of worship, in our favorite sports and especially when wearing the cloth of

our nation. Opportunities to lead, set the example, and help others abound. The upcoming leadership transition is another such opportunity.

It is our opportunity to shine a bright light on our greatness, address our weaknesses, and continuously improve as war fighters. We must tackle the challenges of deployments, individual mobile readiness stats, flying and fixing aircraft, defending our base, performance reports, budget issues, you name it. It never ceases to amaze me on what the Air Force Reserve does; we do in two days what active duty does in 30 days and to the same standards. Let's clear the "lists" and ensure optimal performance. If you have an overdue EPR, overdue training event, need a shot, etc. let's get it done now. I often tell the Maintenance Group the only "list" you want to be on is a promotion list.

Many have already checked out our inbound wing commander and are trying to figure out what he will be like, where

he will focus, what his high interest areas are, his values, etc. My guess is he is doing the same about us. Let's welcome his arrival by demonstrating we are the premier C-130 airlift wing in the world. Let's meet and exceed any standard put to us. I am confident we can drive the metrics to where they need to be without compromising safety or product. Why am I so confident? I know your capabilities, your professionalism, your training, and I know when challenged you rise up and meet that challenge.

With Veteran's Day and the holiday season fast approaching, I want to wish you the best and let you know how honored I am to serve with you in the 94th Airlift Wing. Your service to our nation has not gone unnoticed and our families, friends and leadership are proud that you are our nation's sword and shield, sentries and avengers. Be proud, you've earned it.

Airmen run over flightline for Falcon 5K

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Kelly Goonan
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A brisk 60-degree morning greets 163 participants who check in for the third annual Falcon 5K run sponsored by the Top 3. Just outside of base operations, DJ Mr. Inspirations pumps up the crowd with music while the racers stretch just before the race kicks-off.

This year's 5K was the first time civilian spouses have been invited to participate.

"I love this event, it is great to see everyone come out and run," Senior Master Sgt. Joy Hughes, 94th Civil Engineering Squadron and Falcon 5K coordinator said.

The DJ began the countdown to the start of the race, "3. 2. 1.," when suddenly the burst of collective pounding of sneakers on pavement filled the crisp air as every participant kicked away from the start line.

Just 19 minutes passed as the first few runners came into view. An Aeromedical Staging Squadron Airman led the pack and

crossed the finish line in twenty-minutes flat.

Defending his first place title from last year's Falcon run, Senior Airman David Flynn, 94th ASTS, was out to win once again.

"As I was giving nutritional briefings throughout the year, I guess you could say I was talking a bit big. All in fun but I knew I had to win or I'd never live it down," he said.

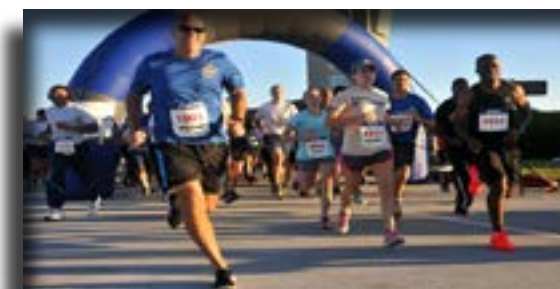
Flynn said he usually runs between three to four miles a day, at least five times a week.

Two minutes later the first female competitor came into view. This time it was a 94th Operations Group officer. Capt. Rebecca Nistler soared past a few runners and took first place for the female racers clocking in at 22 minutes and 10 seconds.

"I love running," Capt. Nistler

said. Her first marathon was the Monster Dash in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 2012. "The freedom [it] gives you makes the sport enjoyable."

The two first place winners were presented trophies by Col. Brett Merritt, 94th Airlift Wing commander. Top 3 plans to continue the tradition with a fourth annual race next year.



Airmen from the 94th Airlift Wing take off down the flightline for the Falcon 5K during the September UTA.



AROUND THE PATTERN



Maj. Steven Fortson receives the unit flag from Col. Augusto Casado, 94th Maintenance Group commander, during a change of command ceremony Aug. 2, 2015 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. Fortson was appointed the new commander of the 94th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Andrew Park)



Lt. Col. Chad Gibson, 94th Airlift Wing public affairs officer, plays hymns on the guitar during the unit training assembly chapel service July 12, 2015, at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. The chapel leads monthly traditional Protestant services and visits regularly with Airmen on the base. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Daniel Phelps)



An Atlanta Falcons rookie and a member of Team Robbins partake in the Rookie Olympics at the Atlanta Falcons training Facility June 1, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Daniel Phelps)



Personnel were treated to lunch of roasted ears of corn and bratwurst at the Dobbins Annual Corn and Sausage Roast held at the base lake July 18. The proceeds are donated to the Dobbins Family Readiness Programs. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Steven Digby, left, and Senior Airman Ashanti Lane, both assigned to the 71st Aerial Port Squadron, push a pallet onboard a static C-130 Hercules aircraft during the 25K Halverson driving and loading course portion of the Port Dawg Challenge at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., June 16, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Schester/Released)



Senior Airman Richard Nauyen, 94th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer, performs a vehicle inspection on a fire truck at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., on April 11, 2015. Vehicle inspections are essential for mission readiness capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Karla Lehman)



HONORARY COMMANDERS TOUR BASE

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Honorary Commanders Association participated in their annual Dobbins Day, visiting various units on Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. Aug. 20.

The HCA was treated to unique tours and briefs where they were able to get up close and personal while flying a U.S. Air Force C-130 simulator and experiencing the difficulty of a smooth landing.

"I apologize for the crash landing,"



Maj. Chad Corliss, explains the training opportunities of a medical dummy. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)

joked Mandy Burton, WellStar Health System marketing strategist. "Landing is so hard."

The base tour taught the HCA class how Dobbins' personnel fit into the local community, said Chris Pruitt, Cobb County engineer.

"It's good to see people from the community who don't know much about Dobbins get to experience first-hand what (the U.S. Air Force Reserve) does," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Cline, 700th Airlift Squadron loadmaster.

Many were blown away as they saw the realism of the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's simulations trauma victim and the training he can provide.

The highlight of the day for the HCA was when they were taken up in the air by Col. James Devere, 94th Operations Group commander, in the Hercules for a civic leader flight.

"It was so amazing," exclaimed Sherry King, Marietta All State Agency, who was able to sit in the cockpit for take-off.

"We were grounded for a bit because of lightning... then we were cleared. The coordination between the pilots and the crew, the maintenance personnel and base operations was seamless – amazing."

The HCA is a Cobb County Chamber of Commerce entity, whose main purpose is to take local civic leaders and introduce them to the U.S. military.

"The best part of this program is the connection between the military and civilians from the local community,"

explained Vicki Aghajanian, LGE Community Credit Union community relations director. "It's great to learn about what our military does on a daily basis."

(Staff Sgt. Alan Abernethy contributed to this article)



HCA members look out the window of a C-130 during a civic leaders flight during Dobbins Day. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



Col. Clark is hosed down after his first flight in a C-130 Hercules after it lands at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., July 11, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)

A FOND FAREWELL

By Senior Airman Miles Wilson
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Even as a child, 94th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Brett Clark always knew what he wanted to do, even if he didn't realize it. It started at a young age, where Clark's mother realized he had an affinity toward toy and model air planes.

"I think my mother realized I had a fascination with planes first," said Clark. "Any time that I had money, I would go out and buy a model airplane which would last about a week, because I would constantly fly it around and it would end up in pieces."

Clark realized he wanted to be a pilot while attending Texas Christian University, where he was exposed to aircraft flying from Carswell Air Force Base. The base was in the area and hosted a variety of aircraft, which immediately grabbed the young Clark's attention.

"I had no intention of joining the military," said the commander, "but Carswell AFB was not too far from Texas Christian, and we watched a lot B-52's and KC-135's. In particular, I was very fascinated by the F-105s."

Clark knew what he wanted to do, and took immediate steps to secure that future. He enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at TCU, aiming to become a pilot in the Air Force. But, Clark had a few hurdles to jump first.

"My timing was poor," said Clark. "They had already pushed out all of the pilot slots in the ROTC program, so I had to wait another year. At first, they told me that I couldn't have a pilot slot, so I told them, 'All right, see ya!' After that, they said, 'hold on, there are other options.' I told them that there weren't any other options for me. After that, they contacted me and told me that they had found a position for me."

After commissioning in 1983 and going through training, Clark was stationed at Dyess AFB as a C-130 pilot. While in training, the new pilot suffered from air sickness.

Despite that, Clark was able to overcome and soon rose to the near top of his class by the end of his training, earning him the Hard Charger Award.

"Our father is extremely competitive," said Kiley Rhoades, Clark's daughter. "He had a drive that was

unlike any other. He doesn't know what it means to quit."

Clark finished training as a distinguished graduate, and was even named the top pilot evaluator in Air Force Reserve Command. Clark said this drive allowed him to rise above expectations as a pilot, and has contributed much to meeting his goals as a commander.

"Competitiveness has made him a superb pilot and an outstanding leader," said Pamela Younker, a member of the Air Force Chief of Staff's National Civic Leaders Council. "And not in the negative way, but in a manner that drives him towards excellence. He has a pursuit of merit and quality that allowed him to make any command he worked with driven towards being the best."

Clark said his drive is the pursuit of excellence, which he has applied to all aspects of his career, from flying aircraft to being a commander. He served in positions such as flight evaluator, director of operations and commander, and has left lasting impressions wherever he goes.

Lt. Col. James Danford, 94th AW chaplain, worked with Clark while he was at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Dan-

Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander, congratulates a wing family member for dunking him during the Annual Wing Family Day Sept. 6, 2014 at the Dobbins Lake-side Recreation Area. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



A 60th Security Forces Squadron's military working dog tries to take down Col. Brett Clark, 94th Airlift Wing commander at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. and one of the Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award inspectors, during the team's inspection of Travis. (U.S. Air Force photo/SMSgt Robert Wade)



Col. Brett J. Clark, newly assigned 94th Airlift Wing commander, exits a C-130 Hercules after completing his first flight at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., Nov. 19. (U.S. Air Force photo/Don Peek)



ford said Clark pushed to make the right calls, even if they weren't the most popular. While there, the aircraft at Maxwell were at risk of being lost.

"When at Maxwell AFB, Col. Clark was an advocate for making the hard decisions, the ones that are right," said Danford. "At one point, Maxwell was lined up to lose its planes, and Clark was the one who fought to keep them. He brought up rosters and statistics, and showed them why Maxwell needed to retain its current mission. He probably made some people mad while doing it, he probably wasn't thought very highly of by some, but he did it because it was right. He left them with that mindset."

"He didn't do the easy thing," he added, "he made a hard decision because it was the right thing to do, not the popular thing to do."

As a commander, Clark's mindset switched drastically from that of a pilot. Instead of thinking about his own excellence, he had to think about pushing thousands of Airmen to the best of their abilities; and how to instill courage, selflessness and pride into them as well.

"Clark's goal was not only excellence, or the defense of the nation, or

even to protect," said Danford. "He wanted the Airmen to be the best that they could be. Whether it was at Maxwell, or at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, his goal was for the Airmen to be the best, and to be confident in themselves."

Aside from the Airmen, Clark focused on new aspects of being a commander, such as interacting with the community and with the plethora of organizations interested in the military. This included meeting with local political and business leaders and members of the community.

"(Col.) Clark ... sets the tone for our military and civilian partners to work together," said David Connell, Cobb County Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer. "He is more involved in the community than any other commander I have seen, and goes above and beyond what is required. The first thing he did when he arrived at Dobbins was set into motion a strategic planning mission for the base and the wing, and he included over 100 people in the process to allow those who are implementing the plan to help develop it."

While at Dobbins, Clark was presented a lifetime membership to the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, making him the eighth individual in 110 years to do so, and the only military officer to ever receive one.

It is an achievement that displays the extent of Clark's determination and passion, to not only make a difference in one area, but to create a lasting impression of the Air Force in the community, said David Connell.

After numerous Air Force achievements, Clark's story in the military finally came to a close after 32 years of faithful service, making the way for a new beginning.

"An hour before I retired, I didn't think I was ready," said Clark. "In fact, I was very nervous. But during the ceremony, after hearing the way others spoke about my career, I thought to myself, 'I'm ready for this.' I look forward to seeing the unit have a new opportunity with a commander with a fresh perspective. After all, stepping aside and inspiring new leaders is part of our job."

CBCS UNVEILING



Dept. of State officials receive a tour of the Containerized Bio-containment system from Maj. Chad Corliss, 94th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron commander.

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Phelps
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The next generation in biocontainment systems was unveiled in a ceremony Aug. 11 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.

The 94th Airlift Wing was chosen by the Department of State as the host unit for the Containerized Biocontainment Systems because of the installation's proximity to world-class hospitals that can treat patients infected with highly contagious pathogens, according to U.S. State Department's Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy.

"Dobbins is a natural choice to host the CBCS," said Dr. Will Walters, Director of Operational Medicine at the State Department.

A year ago, two Ebola victims arrived from Liberia and the Department of State chose Dobbins as the embarkation location in the U.S. The 94th AW provided logistics support and security for the patients' arrival ensuring safe transport to life-saving medical care.

"Along with our strategic location to the Center for Disease Control and Emory Hospital, we are also able to provide the logistics and security for delivery of incoming patients," said Col. Brent Merritt, 94th Airlift Wing commander. "Cobb

County and the metro Atlanta area have a tremendous amount of resources. Our location is important and our Airmen are second to none. We will enthusiastically execute any mission we are assigned. We look forward to that future challenge."

The CBCS is the latest evolution in biocontainment transport capability, leveraging lessons learned over the past years of experience conducting these high risk medevac missions, Kennedy said. The CBCS is a self-contained, roll on, roll off solution that can be used on a variety of commercial and military aircraft and easily decontaminated and stored indefinitely without significant maintenance requirements.

"There is nothing like this out there right now," said Dr. Thomas Sack, President of MRI Global. "We are ready for the next threat. These can safely transport patients while keeping the aircrew safe."

The CBCS is a product of collaboration between the State Department and MRI Global from Kansas City, Missouri with contributions from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.



A CBCS container sits inside of a C-7 aircraft to demonstrate the container's portability on a military aircraft.



U.S. State Dept. Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy speaks to guests of the CBCS unveiling.

Heat Exhaustion

Symptoms

- Headaches
- Dizziness or Lightheadedness
- Weakness
- Mood changes, irritability, confusion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Decreased or dark-colored urine
- Fainting
- Pale, clammy skin

→ ACT IMMEDIATELY

IF NOT TREATED HEAT EXHAUSTION CAN ADVANCE TO HEAT STROKE OR DEATH.

Heat Stroke

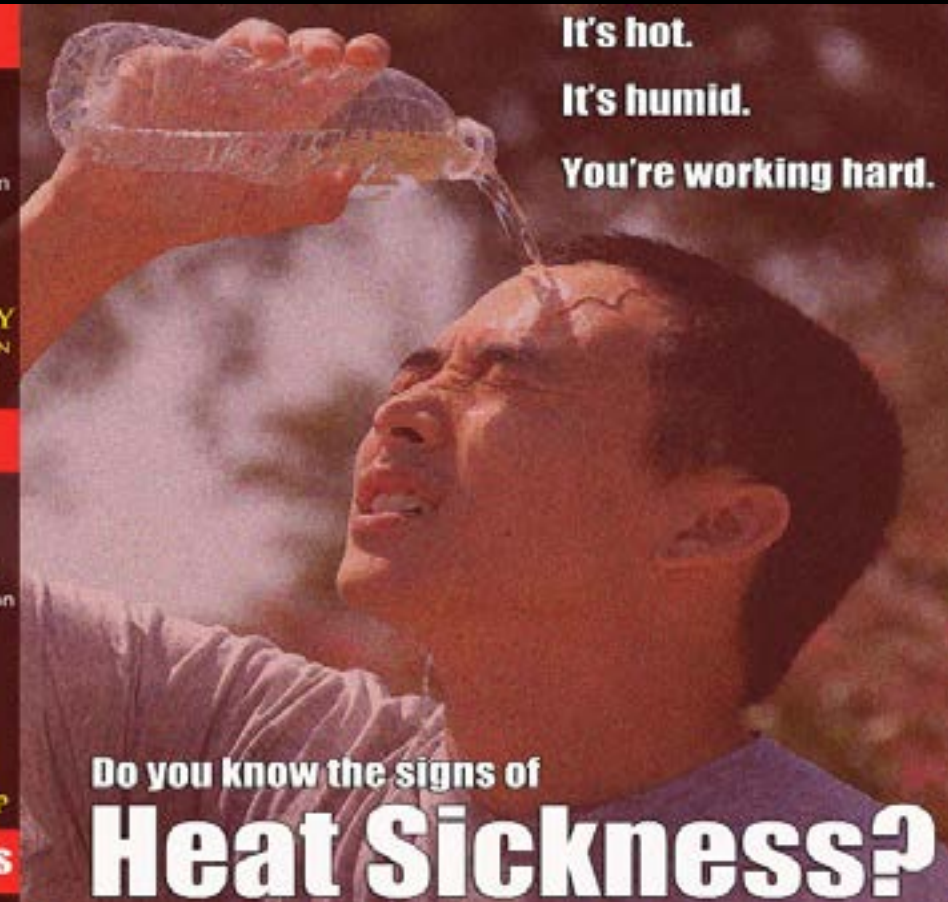
EMERGENCY!

Symptoms

- Dry, pale skin with no sweating
- Hot, red skin that looks sunburned
- Mood changes, irritability, confusion or the inability to think clearly
- Seizures
- Inability to revive from an unconscious state

→ IMMEDIATELY CALL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCY HELP

Drink plenty of fluids



By 94th Airlift Wing Safety Office

I was on base for the week of June 15 through 19 for Annual Training with the 94th Airlift Wing safety office. This particular week, Air Force Reserve Command aerial port squadrons from across the country were competing in the Port Dawg Challenge – a regular competition between units involving various APS related tasks: loading aircraft, securing payloads, etc.

All but two events were held outdoors on the flight line where conditions were severe: temperatures would exceed 95 degrees with humidity peaking at 62 percent. I was tasked with safety oversight of the event and responsible for providing an effective safety briefing.

On Tues., June 16, during the opening ceremonies of the Port Dawg Challenge, I briefed the entire group on different aspects of safety related to this event. I carefully emphasized the effects of heat upon the body and stressed hydration. Previous challenge's had seen Airmen fall out due to heat stress and related injuries. These were mentioned as a reminder to all of the hazards of the Georgia summer.

From 7:30 a.m. on, outside temperatures rose steadily. I walked from event to event, ensuring participants were hydrating. Indeed, I made sure I followed my own advice and continually drank water. Sadly, it wasn't enough.

Clear skies meant full sunshine and hot conditions on area concrete runways. While others removed their uniform tops to help circulate air and reduce body temperatures, I chose to keep mine on. Despite taking a rest break in the morning and pausing for lunch, by the end of the day I felt the effects of the heat: my head ached, I felt nauseous, and had occasional chills (both indoors and out). My goal was to drink more water on my 50 minute drive home to Cherokee County and relax/recover once there.

However, I grew worse enroute. To this day, I'm not sure how I made it safely home and don't remember the next 24 hours.

Thankfully, I recently bought a home and was having it painted. My painter noticed something was wrong – I was unusually pale, lifeless. He called 9-1-1. Paramedics took me to the nearest hospital where I was diagnosed as severely dehydrated with

dangerously low salt/saline levels.

When I finally woke up, I found myself in the critical care unit. The doctors and nurses kept asking me my name and birthday – a neurological question to check for cognitive function. I spent one more night in the hospital for observation. When my salt levels returned to normal, I was finally released - two days after I gave my safety briefing at the Port Dawg Challenge.

What did I learn from the 48-hour ordeal?

1. Be hydrated prior to the event, especially if there is a possibility for heat stress or heat stroke.
2. During and after the event, hydrate by drinking water AND sports drinks. Doctors told me the salt in sports drinks might have made the difference had I started drinking some earlier.
3. When it's hot outside - and authorized - remove the uniform top. When air freely circulates around the body, you'll be much cooler.
4. Listen to your body. If you're experiencing symptoms of heat stress, seek medical attention promptly. Had I seen a medic before leaving base, I might have been able to avoid the two-night ordeal in the hospital.

TOUCH & GO's



The event registration for the November Yellow Ribbon event will be released this afternoon for Orlando on Nov. 20 -22. This is a combined, national event and should fill quickly.

If you are eligible and would like to attend, please send an email to be verified and I can forward the correct link to register.

All three days are duty days when you and your family can attend the scheduled events, and Friday and Saturday afternoon/evenings are open to see the sights.

What is Yellow Ribbon?

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a Congressionally mandated program intended to provide military reservists and their families a forum to get information on the resources and benefits available to them before and after deploying. It's a fantastic way to reconnect with those close to you in a premium venue and a location that has plenty of activities.

Act Quickly

If you wish to attend, it requires a quick response from you. These events do fill to capacity; once the event is filled, members will be put on standby and approved via priorities.

Who Can Attend?

You are eligible to attend 1 pre-deployment event and 2 post-deployments Yellow Ribbon Events if you received a call to Active Duty in support of a deployment for 90 days or more, which resulted in separation from your family for the majority of the deployment. The timeline for eligibility is as follows: You may attend a pre-deployment event up to 120 days before the start of your deployment orders and you are eligible to attend an event for up to six months after your return date.

Is it only for families?

By now most of you have heard this is a great event for you and your family (Spouse & DEERS enrolled Children). However, single folks are planned for as well. There are programs specifically for singles at the event. Single members are allowed to bring 2 guests such as parents, siblings, or designated individuals, such as a roommate, or fiancé. Those people may attend as your guests. Email me for more details and for the required authorization form.

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE!



The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed October 1987 after it was spearheaded by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and given the approval by President George W. Bush signing the proclamation.

"Military leaders and domestic violence workers worry about increases in domestic violence during what is a volatile time for Americans," Kathy Robertson, Department of Defense's Family Advocacy Program manager said. "People in stressful situations, whether related to the economic recession, military downsizing, or dealing with the aftermath of combat are at greater risk for violence."

Stress doesn't just come from deployments it also includes the long hours, the constant temporary duties, the exercises and just simply raising a family in the military. The HRDC provides several programs year round to combat the stress of military life.



CHAPEL CORNER

And Then One Day

By Lt. Col. James Danford
94th Airlift Wing Chaplains Office



I was reading a group of stories the other day, and one of the literary elements that was used to show a shift in direction was the phrase "and then one day."

It was interesting, after that statement some of the characters went on to do great and wonderful things. The stories fleshed out how the characters chose to act upon good choices and move forward. These people, all from varied backgrounds, made a choice one day to do what was right and just.

There was another group of characters in the stories that also saw the shift of "and then one day." Interestingly, these characters were on a good path, some for 20 years, "and then one day" decided to step off that path. What followed after that phrase were times of heartache and tragedy.

The stories proved a point that we all know deep down. Our future is not set in stone; instead it is the culmination of the choices we make each daily. We can choose to do well, or we can choose to do wrong. These choices are made each and every day. It is my hope that this day we will all choose to show kindness, love, mercy and walk humbly as we serve each other and this great nation.

Worship services are held every UTA Sunday at 7:15 a.m. in Heritage Hall and 8 a.m. at 80 APS. Contact the chaplain staff at 678-655-4995.



Dobbins supports Katrina relief



An Air Force Reserve Command WC-130 Hercules sits on the runway here. The Hurricane Hunters from the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron evacuated their home at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., before Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast. Despite their own personal losses, the reservists continued to track tropical storms in the Caribbean. (U.S. Air Force photo by Bo Joyner)

Georgia History Archives

In September 2005, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Hurricane Hunter aircraft flew out of Dobbins ARB after Hurricane Katrina did major damage to their normal home at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Numerous evacuees also came to metro Atlanta through Dobbins ARB, including many medevaced medical patients taken in by local hospitals.





INNERview

Airman 1st Class Lyle K. Flax

(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christina Norris)

Job Title: Air Transportation Apprentice
Hometown: Tortola, British Virgin Islands
Years of service: less than 1 year

How did the Development and Training Flight Program prepare you for Basic Military Training and Field/Specialty Technical School?
DTF prepared me for BMT/Tech School by introducing me to the rigors of military training.

Why do you think the Development and Training Program is important?
DTF is important because the program acts as a transition program from a civilian lifestyle to a strict military lifestyle.

Do you recommend future Airmen to attend the Development and Training Program? Why/Why not?
Yes, DTF offers recruits a "taste" of what to expect in BMT/Tech School.

What does your job entail?
My job entails everything from palletizing cargo, to in-processing and out-processing passengers.

Describe how you accomplished being a Distinguish Graduate? What steps did you take, or how did you prepare, to accomplish your (goals) of being a Distinguished Graduate?

I accomplished Top Graduate by focusing during each lesson, interacting during class, and devoting at least an hour daily to study. "Study, study, study."

What challenges did you face during the Development and Training Flight Program / Basic Military Training/ (and/or) Field/Specialty Technical School?
The biggest challenge was finding time for both social activities and studies during Tech School.

How did you overcome these challenges?
I overcame these challenges by reminding myself each day what my purpose in Tech School was....which was to do the best I could with the opportunity in-front of me.

What is your next goal?
I would like to go back to school and earn an MBA.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself.
In my spare time I thoroughly enjoy flying planes.