

MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

On target
with CATM

442nd's
finest
announced

Martin Luther King's message still relevant today

Commentary by *Tinisha Agramonte*
U.S. Air Force Academy Equal Opportunity office

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – January marks the start of the New Year as well as the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and February is designated as African American History Month.

Today, we recognize the ever-changing demographics in our country, schools and work areas. These changes have influenced the way we relate to one another and how we do business.

In recent years, managing diversity has become a business imperative. Senior Air Force leaders have stated that the service's capability to function as a team and accomplish its mission depends on respecting diversity.

Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, academy dean of the faculty, supported the same view during a recent symposium at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

"Without integrity and mutual respect, we simply aren't a team," General Born said. "And that's the heart of our philosophy of officer development at the Academy and Airmen development in our Air Force doctrine."

The Rev. King espoused the message of diversity management before the term became widely used. His work, words and legacy embody not only diversity principles, but also the Air Force core values.

He spoke of the three major pillars that form the foundation for diversity management – the legal case, the moral case and the business case. When advocating legal rights and equitable treatment through various marches, protests and boycotts, he didn't champion one racial, religious, age or gender group, but rather all people.

He said, "I have a dream: that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed – we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

His actions led to laws that protect the rights of all and in doing so, benefit others. Many people are thankful they are able to maneuver strollers and luggage on curbs and ramps created by law to allow equal accessibility to those

in wheelchairs.

He dreamed of a time when people would feel compelled morally to treat people equitably: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

He demonstrated the adverse economical consequences businesses can suffer when inequities are permitted; the Montgomery bus boycott crippled that city's and Alabama's economy as a whole.

More pertinent to Airmen are the relation of his words to the Air Force core values.

Integrity First – "Cowardice asks the question – is it safe? Expediency asks the question – is it politic? Vanity asks the question – is it popular? But conscience asks the question – is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right."

Service Before Self – "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

Excellence in All We Do – "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of

grace. A soul generated by love."

His work has left an indelible mark on America's history. However, his story is not the only one.

The purpose of ethnic observances is to shed light and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of a diverse group of Americans who helped shape America – not to illicit pity for one group, while discounting another. The Air Force's ability to maintain air and space dominance will rely heavily on its ability to recruit and retain the best and the brightest.

That ability is enhanced when people perceive that equitable treatment, human dignity and respect extend to all. The stories shared and lessons learned from those who exhibit the core values we strive to live by, make the observances relevant and serve as reminders of what is required to achieve mission success.



WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Then-President Ronald Reagan signs the bill commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday on Nov. 2, 1983 in the White House rose garden. This year's observance marked the 77th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the twentieth anniversary of the national holiday in his honor. The holiday celebrates the life and legacy of Rev. King who was one of America's leading Civil Rights activists. (Courtesy photo)

MOHAWK

442ND FIGHTER WING

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THE 442ND'S FINEST

Four 442nd Fighter Wing Airmen awarded Airman, NCO, Senior NCO and First Sergeant of the Year

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ON TARGET WITH CATM

A look at 442nd Security Forces Airmen tasked with keeping wing members proficient in small arms.

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DEDICATING A THUNDERBOLT

Wing A-10 dedicated to Branson to recognize that community's support.

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 AF moves to joint enlisted PME page 11



442nd Fighter Wing Tip of the Spear

MASTER SGT. DEAN LARSON 442ND CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

Master Sgt. Dean Larson deployed to Iraq and worked in a joint environment performing engineering duties for the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps. He researched, evaluated and created a design for a 4-million-gallon tactical fuel storage and distribution site at Al Asad, Iraq, vastly improving the site's mission capabilities. This project will support a wide spectrum of joint-forces aircraft and other mission-critical assets in the Al Anbar Province.

Sergeant Larson collaborated with the 2nd Marine Air Wing, U.S. Army deployed headquarters and local Air Force leadership to design and program a \$2.4 million security fence surrounding an Al Asad airfield. This provided a state of the art force protection barrier for all military and civilian aircraft, personnel and equipment. He was a key player in the architecture and layout of the Army's 561st Corps Support Group "Can City;" and also worked with a deployed design team to establish the Al Asad support hub that provided superior combat service support to more than 44,000 troops deployed to various locations throughout western Iraq.

Sergeant Larson has been with the 442 CES since September 1994 and was in the Army Reserve from 1989 to 1994. He has gone above and beyond his duties as a non-commissioned officer and traditional Reservist and is recognized as the Wing's "Tip of the Spear" for February.

February 2006
Charge-of-quarters



MASTER SGT. ROBERT SMITH 442ND SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Call the CQ from on-base at 99-1 (660) 238-7428. Local off-base number; (i.e., Concordia, Warrensburg, Sedalia, etc.) dial (660) 238-7428. To leave a message for the CQ from off-base dial (800) 260-0253 and press seven after the prompt.

COVER PHOTO: Senior Airman Eric Boxberger, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, keeps close watch on wing members firing at the base range. Weapons qualification included firing from different positions with and without wearing a gas mask. See pages six and seven for more. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier)

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February 2006

The 442nd's finest



PHOTO BY MAJ. DAVID KURLE

*NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Tami Goodhart
442nd Maintenance
Operations Flight*

*Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Dean Larson
442nd Civil Engineer Squadron*

*Airman of the Year
Senior Airman James Van Gilder
442nd Civil Engineer Squadron*

*First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Cody Ellett
442nd Civil Engineer Squadron*



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. LARRY WASHINGTON



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. LARRY WASHINGTON

'06 budget has increased benefits for reservists

WASHINGTON – People serving in the Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components could receive new or enhanced benefits this year.

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act lets the Department of Defense offer reservists a variety of benefits more on par with their active-duty counterparts, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation.

President George W. Bush signed the defense bill Jan. 6.

One big change is a provision that shortens the duty time before reservists qualify for the full housing allowance. People called to active duty for non-contingency operations for more than 30 days will now get the full allowance, just as active-duty troops do.

In the past, reservists serving in non-contingencies had to be called to active duty for at least 140 days.

For reservists who experience pay cuts when called to active duty, a new provision for income replacement will help reduce the strain military service places on the family, Mr. Witschonke said.

"It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they're stressed by a change in their lifestyle (due to a military deployment)," he said.

The income-replacement program won't be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. At that time, specific guide-

lines and qualifications will be issued, he said. This authority will end in December 2008.

The 2006 authorization act also permits increases in recruiting bonuses for reservists. People could get accession and affiliation bonuses of up to \$20,000 to enlist in the Selected Reserve. Officers could see an increase from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for initial service in the Selected Reserve.

People who possess a designated critical skill could earn a bonus of up to \$100,000.

Another provision of the defense bill extends the eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized the new law does not guarantee that all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service

leaders the flexibility they need to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on the DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/. (AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service)



2006 Reserve Pay for Four Drills
Years of Service

	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1,102.80	1,138.92	1,162.88	1,169.60	1,199.48	1,249.48	1,261.08	1,308.56	1,322.16	1,363.04	1,422.16	1,476.72	1,513.16	1,513.16	1,513.16
O-7	916.36	958.92	978.64	994.28	1,022.64	1,050.60	1,083.00	1,115.32	1,147.72	1,249.48	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,335.44	1,342.20
O-6	679.20	746.16	795.12	795.12	798.12	832.36	836.88	836.88	884.44	968.52	1,017.88	1,067.20	1,095.28	1,123.68	1,178.84
O-5	566.20	637.82	682.00	690.28	717.80	734.32	770.56	797.16	831.48	884.08	909.08	933.84	961.92	961.92	961.92
O-4	488.52	565.52	603.24	611.68	646.68	684.24	730.96	767.44	792.72	807.24	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68
O-3	429.52	486.92	525.56	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76
O-2	371.08	422.68	486.80	503.24	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60
O-1	322.16	335.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28
O-3E	-	-	-	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	709.12	724.60	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72
O-2E	-	-	-	503.24	513.60	529.96	557.52	578.88	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76
O-1E	-	-	-	405.28	432.84	448.80	465.16	481.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	536.28	548.44	563.76	581.80	599.92	629.04	653.64	679.60	719.20
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	439.00	458.44	470.44	484.84	500.44	528.60	542.88	567.16	580.64	613.80
E-7	305.16	333.08	345.84	362.76	375.92	398.60	411.32	424.04	446.72	458.08	468.84	475.44	497.68	512.08	548.48
E-6	263.96	290.40	303.24	315.68	328.68	358.00	369.40	382.04	393.16	397.08	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80
E-5	241.88	258.04	270.48	283.28	303.16	320.28	332.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88
E-4	221.72	233.08	245.68	258.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12
E-3	200.16	212.76	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60
E-2	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32
E-1	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80

E-1 with less than four months: \$157.06

COMBAT

Keeping the wing on t

Below: Staff Sgt. J.P. Shanahan, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, scores the shooting accuracy of Senior Airman Dustin Wright, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, at the firing range during the Jan. 7 unit training assembly.

*By Tech. Sgt. Leo Brown
and Staff Sgt. Angela Blazier*



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER

As Air Force reservists deploy more frequently into hostile environments, the training provided by the 442nd Security Forces Squadron's Combat Arms Training and Maintenance team becomes even more valuable.

"If they're going to be carrying a weapon, they won't be on an easy tour of duty," said Staff Sgt. Bridget Lund, combat arms specialist and instructor. "I want the students to think, 'If I carry (a weapon), I may have to use it.'"

Each unit training assembly, Master Sgt. Mark Weber and his team (Tech. Sgts. Mike Boessen and Rob Fischer, and Staff Sgts. Lund and Van Swearingin) are charged with instructing roughly 30 students who bring a variety of firearms experience and know-how.

"I've been doing this for 20 years ... (and) you have to keep in mind the level of knowledge of the students," said Sergeant Weber, non-commissioned officer in charge of armory combat arms. "We hit the full gambit."

"It's not just security forces who carry weapons," Sergeant Lund said.

The team deals with the M-4 carbine (carried by security forces Airmen), the M-16A2 rifle, the M-9 pistol, the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the M-240B machine gun (which replaced the M-60) and the M-203, 40 mm grenade launcher.

With such firepower, safety is always of the utmost concern, Sergeant Weber said.

"Safety is stressed all the time," he said. "In

the classroom stressed ... ing."

"We're Sergeant Fischer instructor. "I our guidance humorous.

Sergeant levity of th

"It's n Weber said the world,

*"If you get deployed ... It's y
the weapon, and if it break
have to fix it,"*

— Master Sgt. Mark We

personnel. simulator, f Training S

"It giv an individu said. "The an individu to show the wrong."

With s only one g

"I hop will learn s when the ti taught ther

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om, it's stressed. On the range, it's even before, during and after fir-

liable for these students," said Ser-
ner, combat arms specialist and in-
f someone gets hurt, they're under
ce, so we don't let things get too

ant Weber further emphasizes the
e situation.

ot a game. It's serious," Sergeant
l. "With today's events going on in
this takes a more serious turn. I tell

you and
s - you

ber.

the students, 'If you
get deployed, I'm
not there with you.
It's you and the
weapon and if it
breaks - you have to
fix it.'"

The combat
arms team has many
tools at their dis-
posal to train wing

One such tool is the combat arms
formerly known as the Combat Arms
system.

es us the opportunity to work with
ual one-on-one," Sergeant Weber
simulator room is a great tool to take
ual who's struggling with live fire -
em exactly what they're doing

uch an important job, there is really
goal for Sergeant Lund.

ie everybody attending this class
something that'll save lives ... (and)
me comes, they remember what we
n," she said.

To the right, Staff Sgt. Bridget Lund, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, instructs Tech. Sgt. Amy Borden, 442nd Mission Support Flight, on the proper use of the M-16A2. Below, Tech. Sgt. Michael Boessen, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, watches over students at the firing range.

Bottom, Tech. Sgt. Rob Fischer, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates how to take aim with the M-162A at the computer simulated firing range.

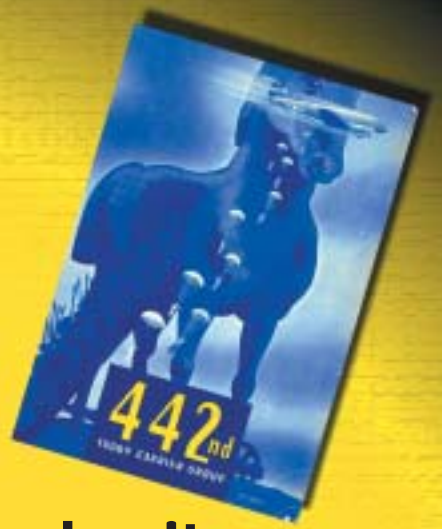
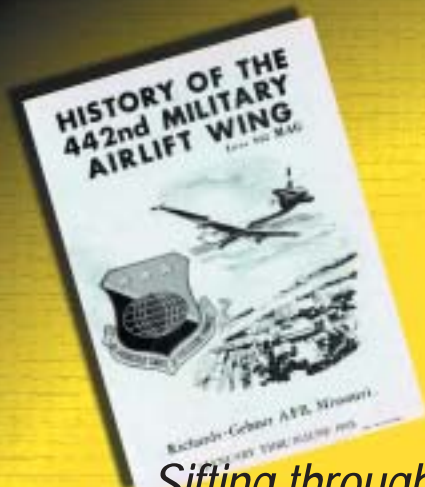


PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. LEO BROWN



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANGELA BLAZIER



Sifting through the sands of time Historian chronicles 442nd wing heritage

by Tech. Sgt. Mike Morrison
442nd Fighter Wing historian

“By command of General Arnold:”

These five words undersigned on Army Air Forces Regulation No. 20-8 dated July 19, 1943 established the Army Air Forces Historical Division under the “...supervision and control of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence”.

So began an exhaustive program to collect, analyze and record information of historical significance to the Army Air Forces. The Historical Division, the forbearer of today’s Air Force History Program, built the framework that would, according to Air Force Policy Directive 84-1, “...enable the Air Force to understand the present and plan for the future while remembering its heritage.”

So why is history so important that it requires its own Air Force Specialty Code for officer and enlisted personnel engaged in these activities? Well as George Santayana put it in 1924, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Point taken, there is some merit in avoiding future mistakes by understanding the lessons learned of past actions and their consequences. But what role does the Air Force historian have in making those lessons learned applicable to the global mission of today’s Air Force and its leadership?

To begin with the Air Force History Program is charged by the Secretary of the Air Force to; collect, record, and preserve valuable historical information in

both peace and war; research and analyze information to write, publish and distribute publications on past Air Force activities; provide historical perspective and factual data to Air Force leaders at all levels; answer information requests; and promote institutional heritage and awareness of air and space power within the Air Force.

It’s a tall order but not an impossible one. Here is how it’s done in today’s Air Force Reserve and the 442nd Fighter Wing.

At the wing level the reserve unit historian usually works in a one-person office. These offices are staffed with Airmen who have retrained into the historian career field from a previous AFSC. The wing historian is involved in most facets of the Air Force History Program. At this level the historian gathers information and produces an annual periodic history, which is reviewed by the commander and submitted to Air Force Reserve Command and the Air Force Historical Research Agency. While the completion of periodic histories is the primary function of the historian, it’s not the only aspect of the job. Wing historians construct and maintain historical displays, create historical pamphlets and review requests for unit emblems and guidons.

The wing historian is not alone in performing these duties. Many units in the Air Force Reserve have Unit History Representatives. These Airmen gather information from their units and filter it to the wing historian. This cooperation between the different units in a wing and the wing historian is invaluable in getting the job done.

In addition to unit representatives, the historian works with public affairs and serves the wing commander directly as part of the wing staff.



Right, an A-10 Thunderbolt II takes off on a combat mission as A-10 crew chiefs, weapons loaders and an avionics specialist ready others for another mission. Since Sept. 15, A-10s here have flown more than 1,700 combat sorties, totaling more than 6,000 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Below, the setting sun silhouettes an A-10 Thunderbolt II after a combat mission. (Photos by Chief Master Sgt. David L. Stuppy)



Arizona A-10s multi-task at Bagram AB

by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN) – A-10 Thunderbolt IIs continue taking the fight to the enemy by providing close air support to U.S. and coalition forces participating in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Shortly after deploying in September to this base at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountains from Davis-Monthan Air Base, Ariz., the 354th Fighter Squadron “Bulldogs” began making history.

“Our A-10s have provided non-stop presence and lethal firepower since we arrived,” said the squadron commander, Lt. Col. Martha McSally. “From ensuring the success of Afghanistan’s first-ever provincial elections on Sept. 18 to the first seating of an Afghan national parliament in history on Dec. 19, we are continuing to make a footprint on the world around us.”

The Bulldogs have succeeded in defeating enemy combatants because of their detailed integration with coalition ground forces.

“Throughout this AEF rotation, we’ve integrated with conventional and special ops battlefield warfighters to seek out and destroy remaining pockets of Taliban, terrorist and anti-coalition militia,” Colonel McSally said. “This integration has helped save hundreds of U. S. and coalition lives and ensured a safe and successful election process.”

Since Sept. 15, the Bulldogs have flown more than 1,700 combat sorties, totaling more than 6,000 combat hours, and fired more than 20,000 rounds of 30 mm bullets.

“(The) 30 mm (cannon) is the weapon of choice for A-10 pilots in providing pinpoint accuracy against the enemy with ‘friendlies’ or civilians unharmed sometimes less than 100 meters away,” the colonel said.

The pilots have also used laser-guided bombs, airburst freefall bombs and high-explosive rockets to demolish enemy forces. On more than 100 occasions, A-10 pilots worked with friendly forces in direct contact with the enemy.

Close air support isn’t the only thing the A-10s provide. The Bulldogs have also been first on scene at several coalition helicopter crashes. Pilots provided cover to deter hostile forces and, sometimes, immediate firepower for those needing a more com-

PELLING effort to defeat their hostile action.

“Uniquely trained to take on the role of rescue mission commander, the A-10s have de-conflicted all supporting assets, provided command and control in very dynamic situations,” Colonel McSally said. “We then coordinated for rescue and medevac, provided lethal coverage overhead against the threat and escorted rescue assets to safety, saving dozens of U.S. and coalition lives.”

The colonel said the A-10 pilots have also provided escort and presence for movement of friendly convoys, helicopters and cargo aircraft, which sometimes carry high-level Afghan and U.S. leaders, or vital earthquake relief into Pakistan.

Two recently certified A-10 flight leads said protecting friendly forces from those who would cause them harm is a key emphasis for A-10 pilots.

“After dropping a 500-pound bomb or firing 500 rounds of 30 mm high-explosive incendiary bullets, it’s a good feeling knowing our forces were no longer taking fire,” said A-10 pilot Capt. Dan Cruz.

Captain Cruz said using weapons in combat has been the highlight of his A-10 flying experience. The “Hog”, as Airmen call the jet, was the first Air Force aircraft specially designed to provide close air support.

“Knowing that friendly forces on the ground were actively taking fire and the need for us to rapidly employ weapons to protect them has been intense and exhilarating,” said Captain Cruz, who is from Glendale, Ariz.

When conducting close-air-support missions, the captain said there’s little room for error.

“The training I’ve received over the years has instilled the importance of quickly determining all friendly locations before employing weapons,” he said. “With the friendlies factored in, it’s simply a choice of what weapon to use that will achieve the desired weapons effects.”

Capt. Jay Annis, another A-10 pilot, said he takes pride in what he’s doing to support the ongoing global war on terrorism.

“I’ve been given the skills and confidence necessary to perform our A-10 mission in combat,” said Captain Annis, who is from Chanhassen, Minn. “I’m proud to be able to provide my piece of the puzzle – taking the heat off of our brothers who are taking the fight to the enemy on the ground.”



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BILL HUNTINGTON

DEDICATING A THUNDERBOLT

Col. Mark Ronco, 442nd Fighter Wing vice commander, and Branson Mayor Lou Schaefer unveil the "Thunderbolt of Branson" at a ceremony in the wing's

five-bay hangar Jan. 8. Colonel Ronco said the dedication was in recognition of the city of Branson's support of the military and the wing.



Wynne welcomed into the blue

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne is "welcomed into the blue" during a ceremony here Jan. 12. He assumed the duties as the 21st secretary of the Air Force in November 2005. Secretary Wynne spent seven years in the Air Force and taught at the Air Force Academy before joining the commercial aerospace industry. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.)

Nomination season opening for top employer awards

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service



Award, and the Pro Patria Award.

Winners "set a high standard for all America's private and public employers," said David Janes, national chairman of the National Committee for Employer

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Guard and Reserve members may recommend their employers to be recognized for supporting their military service when the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards nomination season opens next week.

The nomination season lasts from Jan. 9 to Feb. 28.

During last year's open season, there were 1,492 employers nominated for the prestigious Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve award. Fifteen winning employers were honored at a ceremony here last October.

To make a recommendation, Guard and Reserve members must answer 10 questions about support they receive from their employer. Questions target pay policies, benefits and leave policies, previous ESGR awards, supervisor training, ESGR advocacy, service-member recognition, family support, deployed member support, hiring preferences and general military support, said ESGR spokesman Tom Bullock.

The nomination form is posted on the ESGR Web site.

The 55 ESGR field committees will review all nominations and verify the employer information received through the Web site. The ESGR National Ombudsman Team will then investigate all the nominations to ensure employers comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Up to 15 awards will be presented here on Sept. 19, Mr. Bullock said.

The Freedom Award is the highest in a series of Defense Department employer awards that include the Patriot Award, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Above and Beyond

Support of the Guard and Reserve in July.

The companies were selected based on a variety of factors – from providing pay differentials to extending health care, dental and life insurance coverage during employees' military mobilization, officials said. All have signed statements of support for the Guard and Reserve at the five-star level, which designates that they are strong advocates for the reserve components and role models for other companies.

"I cannot think of a better measure of the leadership and patriotism of a business organization than to be recognized for outstanding Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve," said Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey, keynote speaker at the 2005 awards ceremony in October. "And even more telling is that since the nomination has to be initiated by a Guard or Reserve member or family member employed by the company, it is truly driven from the bottom up."

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was initiated in 1996 to publicly recognize American employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who voluntarily serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserve who voluntarily answer the call to duty, Mr. Harvey said.

Other ESGR awards also recognize employer support for their Guard and Reserve members and can be presented directly by the employee or an ESGR field committee member.

Details about these awards are posted on the ESGR Web site, which can be found at www.esgr.mil.

Murray: Enlisted joint military education available

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Joint professional military education will become a reality for enlisted Airmen throughout their careers.

A new Department of Defense policy requires joint learning objectives in all enlisted levels. While the officer corps is mandated by law to include joint education, this policy specifically addresses the enlisted force.

"This matches what we do today – we work and fight in a joint environment," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. "It's important that we ensure we have joint training and education throughout our ranks. We recognize the need for every Airman to understand operations in a joint environment."

Chief Murray said the Air Force has already made progress in this joint training process.

For example, after reviewing the basic military training course last year, the Air Force designed a new joint course that includes the basics of identifying other services' rank structures and the purpose of each service.

"We've incorporated most of the joint PME program objectives into our PME courses already," he said. "We've been working to ensure we have joint education throughout all levels of our enlisted force PME." Two joint training courses will be available for senior NCOs.

The first is a Web-based course designed for senior NCOs assigned to joint organizations, he said.

"This course addresses requirements of supervising or working for individuals from other branches of the service," Chief Murray said. "It has 11 training modules consisting of National Defense Strategy, joint staff organization, and joint operations."

Service-specific standards are also provided in this course. Those include dress and appearance, fitness requirements, reporting procedures and performance evaluations, he said.

Another course for senior NCOs is the Keystone Course, primarily for chief master sergeants who will be senior enlisted leaders or advisors within a joint task force headquarters or areas where they will report to flag or general officers in a joint headquarters.

"Our Airmen serve in tactical, organizational and strategic levels," Chief Murray said. "We must deliberately develop our education, training and evaluation programs with a central focus – fighting jointly – while retaining our service-unique provisions. Joint, interagency and multinational operations require a distinct level of readiness. Methodical incorporation of JPME will raise our capabilities across the spectrum."

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Below: A 442nd Fighter Wing A-10 Thunderbolt II stands in front of the U.S. flag during a ceremony Jan. 8, which dedicated aircraft number 113 as the "Thunderbolt of Branson." Branson mayor, Louis Schaefer, delivered the keynote address during the dedication ceremony. Members of the Branson Board of Aldermen, as well as other representatives from the city received a base tour and attended the ceremony. For more see page 10. (Photo by Master Sgt. William Huntington)

TO THE FAMILY OF:



***"You are the defenders of our freedom
and the protection of our hopes and dreams."***

***-- Louis Schaefer,
Mayor of Branson***