FLIGHT LINES

SERVING HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

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Makos train in Arizona

Operation Patriot Pronghorn gives reserve fighter pilots chance to train with peers at Luke AFB, Ariz.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bucky Parrish, 482 AMXS

Lt. Col. Mike "Frosty" Hohman, 93d Fighter Squadron, flies an F-16 Fighting Falcon on the return trip from Luke AFB, Ariz., after completing Operation Patriot Pronghorn. Patriot Pronghorn trained Forward Air Controller Pilots in each of the AFRC F-16 squadrons to 'rainbow'(integrate) as pilots and maintainers. During the training the 93d FS certified two pilots, bringing the squadron to a total of five certified pilots. The 93d FS now has the ability to control Close Air Support fighters in support of a ground commander.

Exciting missions this year for the 482d FW

By Col. Randall G. Falcon, 482d Fighter Wing Commander

On our first Unit Training Assembly weekend of 2005, Paula and I would like to welcome you back home to the 482d Fighter Wing. We hope every one of you enjoyed a relaxing holiday with your family and friends.

As I look forward to the New Year, I must say that it's a great time to be an Airman in the 482d Fighter Wing. This year our reservists deploy to South America to participate in New Horizons, a joint humanitarian operation building roads, schools and hospitals. Also, members of our Medical Squadron deploy to Rosebud, North Dakota, to provide essential medical attention to people in need.

Of course the biggest event is our participation in Air Expeditionary Force 7/8 this fall. While on AEF, we'll support Operation Iraqi Freedom and our government's effort to restore peace and establish democracy in that region.

This is an exciting year to be in the 482d Fighter Wing! We have rare opportunities to complete real world, exciting missions around the globe. It's also an opportunity for you, every individual, from Airmen First Class to Colonel, to hone your individual leadership skills, personal discipline and technical competence to do your part in securing the safe, successful completion of our missions.

During challenges like these, our established leadership displays their mettle while you younger troops develop your technical and leadership skills to someday assume greater leadership positions yourself. Are you up to the challenge? I know we are!

Air Force Reserve photo

Col. Randall G. Falcon
482d Fighter Wing Commander

Civilian Employment Information Program mandatory for all reservists

The mandatory Reserve component Civilian Employer Information Program is ongoing, culminating a yearlong effort to establish a Department of Defense-wide system to capture and understand who employs the 1.2 million members of the seven Reserve components.

Members of the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and Coast Guard reservists must enter their employer data on the Defense Manpower Data Center Web site, at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal .

Guard and Reserve members are required to register information about their civilian employer and job skills, in order for the department to meet three different requirements defined in law. The Department of Defense is required to: give consideration to civilian employment necessary to maintain national health, safety and interest when considering members for recall; ensure that members with critical civilian skills are not retained in numbers beyond those needed for those skills, and; inform employers of reservists' of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

According to Capt. Paul Hubenthal, 482d FW Director of Military Personnel, "reservists must re-validate their information annually, as well as during in-processing and outprocessing."

For further information, contact Capt. Paul Hubenthal, paul.hubenthal@homestead.af.mil (305) 224-7415 or visit the Defense Manpower Data Center website at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal .

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Air Force Honors Spouses with Pin

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials have expanded the pin program to recognize and thank those who support the efforts of Airmen around the world by introducing the Air Force spouse pin. This pin joins the Air Force employer pin and parent pin as one of the service's most visible public outreach programs.

Peter B. Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force, presided over a ceremony here Oct. 8, where the first three pins were presented to spouses of an active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airman.

"In an increasingly volatile world, the Air Force depends on families for their support as never before," said Col. Chris Geisel, assistant director of Air Force public affairs. "It's only appropriate that we reach out to the spouses who stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us."

The spouse pin — a blue star cradled in the Air Force symbol — is a contemporary adaptation of a wartime tradition. Beginning with World War I, families hung service flags in their windows to display a blue star for each family member serving in the armed forces.

The new pin is given to spouses of American Airmen and civilians in recognition of the sacrifices they make for their spouse's service, Colonel Geisel said.

Besides the 1-inch silver lapel pin, the spouses will receive a personalized letter signed by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

Airmen and civilian employees can register for a spouse pin and letter through a Web-based program at www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com

More than 222,000 Airmen have already created profiles at the Web site, which has resulted in the presentation of more than 318,000 parent pins and more than 61,000 employer pins.

Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

A letter signed by Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper accompanies each Air Force spouse pin. The pin is designed to recognize and thank spouses who support the efforts of Airmen stationed worldwide.

Falcon's Nest Club gets a facelift

By Jess Holcomb, Chief of Services

The Falcon's Nest Club will shut down for customer use beginning Jan. 24 for renovations and furniture upgrades. The improvements will greatly enhance the appearance of the club and the end product will be something that all club members can be proud of.

This does not mean that the club will not be open. Debbie Lippincott and her club staff will serve lunch as normal, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m , in the parking lot in front of the club. Lunch during this time frame will consist of hot buffet specials and limited sandwich selections.

The club will have a limited number of tents and open air seating, and will also operate a bar in the same location during normal bar operating hours. This will be a challenging experience for the club staff, however, the club member comes first and our team is dedicated to providing continual service while the work is being done.

To celebrate the completion of the work, lunch on Friday Feb. 4 2005 will be FREE to all club members (buffet items only). Non-members can eat at the normal menu price.

Murray calls people Air Force's greatest resource

by Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS) — Readiness and taking care of one another are two of the Air Force's top priorities, said the Air Force's top enlisted leader here Dec. 1.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray said it all comes down to people being the Air Force's greatest resource.

"We are absolutely proud of what our Airmen are doing," said the chief while on a two-week tour of U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases. "They're doing new missions today that have emerged based on the threat … and they're doing them remarkably well."

Part of the reason for this success is that Air Force leaders are continually looking at the readiness of our force, Chief Murray said.

"As we fight this global war on terrorism and continue to develop operations downrange … our Airmen must be prepared," he said. "Our (job) is to continue to make sure our Airmen are trained, have the right equipment and are organized correctly to complete the mission. That's something our senior (leaders have) talked about and are evaluating."

The chief, who recently traveled to Southwest Asia with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche, said working directly alongside our sister services is changing the way we train.

"We saw firsthand Airmen in transportation, civil engineer, security forces and so many other career fields (who) were working as partners with the Army. We have medical personnel working alongside allied forces and the U.S. Army — and they are all just doing a remarkable job," said Chief Murray. "We're taking lessons (from) those deploying now to prepare those people who will go there in the future."

Taking care of one another is a top priority, Chief Murray said. "One of the things we've placed an emphasis on is just how well Airmen need to take care of Airmen."

Citing high-level concern over recent suicide and accident rates within the Air Force, the chief said, "our Air Staff put out the direction to kind of shut the Air Force down for a day … ensuring that our Airmen know that our No. 1 resource and focus in the Air Force, clearly is, and will always be on, our people.

"What we need to do is ensure we support our Airmen and their families in every way," the chief said. "To shape the force this year, yet continue with the great capabilities our Airmen have demonstrated … is where we must concentrate our efforts.

"This is a volunteer service," Chief Murray said. "(My job) is to thank Airmen for that service and to help them look at things objectively. I've served for 27 years now, and as I look back on it, with all of its challenges — ups and downs and all — it's been a great way of life." (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)

Mentoring - the difference between success and failure

By Master Sgt. Maria L. Houle, 1st Sgt., 482d Maintenance Operations Flight

Mentoring is developing and promoting our most important resources – our people. It takes caring and supportive leaders who are willing to listen and help others prepare themselves for increased responsibility. People who have had the benefit of a good mentor often attribute their success to the support and advice of their mentors. For some, the experience has even changed their lives.

If organizations are only as successful as the men and women who make them work, then it makes sense for us to pass our knowledge on to our protégés, the future mentors. We have to share our knowledge of the organizational culture and the lessons we learned along the way. The bottom line is we have to mentor to insure the future success of our organization, enhance the overall professionalism of the Air Force, and retain our most valuable assets – our people.

Air Force Instruction 36-3401, Air Force Mentoring, provides guidance on how to carry out the mentoring program, which was established to bring about a cultural change in the way we view professional development.

Mentoring is the responsibility of all Air Force members. It is a continuous process that starts the day a newcomer is processed into our respective units. We must remember there are times where we will be the mentor and other times we will be the protégé. In either role, we have certain obligations that we must strive to meet. As mentors, we have an obligation to advise and challenge our subordinates to do their best both personally and professionally. As protégés, we have an obligation to listen, learn and implement the lessons being taught by our mentors.

Caring about our people can be the difference between success and failure. Let's choose success and mentor our people.

Homestead Air Reserve Base teams up for Christmas toy drive

Story and photos by Lisa Macias

As a tradition for the past eight years, military personnel at Homestead ARB have teamed up with Santa to ensure no child in our local community goes without Christmas presents.

This year, Senior Master Sgt. Meei Hill coordinated a toy drive in which Santa and his elves took toys to the Redland Christian Migrant Association, Child Care Center Camp Dec. 10.

The next stop for Santa and the elves on Dec. 13 was the South Dade Christian Migrant Association After School Care Program Camp. Finally they visited the Community Partnership for the Homeless Dec.18, where Santa personally handed out even more presents.

Sergeant Hill spoke about a past visit where a few of the children had never seen Santa. According to Sergeant Hill, "They were frightened by the experience; they cried and hid behind their teachers." However, as the afternoon progressed, and when Santa was about to leave, the children grabbed his leg and begged him to stay and play with them a little longer.

"It was the look on their faces and the love they expressed which makes the whole event worthwhile," said Sergeant Hill.

It is also the team effort contributed by all the "Elves" in the 482d Fighter Wing, which makes the toy drive so endearing. "All we do is ask, and have a little heart and things work out for the best," said Sergeant Hill.

Some of the less fortunate children in our community might have missed out on Christmas this year. But the toy drive and the Elves from the 482d Fighter Wing gave these children a Christmas they will never forget, and neither will Santa.

Merry Christmas, from the 482d Fighter Wing!

Above: Barbara Noske, a seventeen year employee of Homestead Air Reserve Base, gathers gifts to deliver to underprivileged children during the holidays. Noske has been volunteering for the Homestead ARB Christmas toy drive for four years.

The "elves" from Homestead Air Reserve Base gathered in the holiday spirit to wrap presents for children at local migrant care and homeless shelters. For the past eight years the elves have brought Santa to children who otherwise wouldn't have received many gifts for Christmas.

Operation Patriot Pronghorn

By Staff Sgt. Stephen M. Razo
944th FW Public Affairs

The face of war is not a constant. How we fight wars is not a constant. What is constant is the necessity of engaging war properly equipped, trained, and knowing who the enemy is.

For the 944th Fighter Wing, the changing face of war has brought about a new mission role that is putting a different face on the F-16.

Patriot Pronghorn, held at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., and hosted by the 944th FW, provided a historic training platform for the Forward Air Controller – Airborne (FAC-A) and Close Air Support (CAS) F-16 mission that continues to be defined and validated as a critical wartime AFRC F-16 support role.

Named after the Pronghorn antelope-goat that inhabits the Barry M. Goldwater Range, these animals are survivors known for being selective, opportunistic foragers. "This new mission is a nitch for us (the Reserve) that will make us very much wanted and needed by the Joint Forward Air Controller in the Area of Responsibility," states Col. Bill Binger, Patriot Pronghorn detachment commander and 944th FW Operations Group commander.

Colonel Binger says the exercise marked the first time 10th Air Force has put all four Reserve fighter units together to accomplish a mission directed at improving combat capability. In addition, accomplishing the training objectives will provide commanders in a war area of operation a few more options. "The objective this first time was to get eight new FAC-A qualified pilots in the system with three of those becoming FAC-A Instructor Pilots," said Colonel Binger.

Not a simple task when 180 backbreaking sorties over a fifteen day period was the order at hand to achieve those certifications and with an Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) tasking falling to the Reserve in 2005, "one-mission/one-team" training couldn't come at a better time. According to Staff Sgt. Gabriel Pedraza, 482d FW crew chief, Homestead ARB, Fla. the one team approach took a little time. "At first, it was a little confusing because we weren't sure who was in charge of what but that quickly changed. When you work side by side with the other units you learn quickly and it really is as if you were all in the same unit."

"Operations and Maintenance exercised as a single team," said Binger. "It wasn't four teams working out there. You didn't have Homestead working on Homestead and Carswell working on Carswell, it was a single team."

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Bucky Parrish, 482d AMXS

482 AMXS weapons crew chief Master Sgt. Eric Barnett loads a BDU-33 onto station one of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Operation Patriot Pronghorn at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Zadach, 944th FW Public Affairs

F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 457th FS, NAS Fort Worth JRB,Texas; 466th FS, Hill AFB, Utah; 93d FS, Homestead ARB, Fla.; and the 302 FS, Luke AFB, Ariz., line the flightline at the 944th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz., during Operation Patriot Pronghorn.

The high number of sorties dictated a "10-turn-10" (10 launches, recover, re-launch) exercise tempo. Maintaining that tempo went a long way toward the single team objective while solidifying the mission objective "They called this a rainbow deployment because we all deployed together on the same mission," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Thornton, 482d FW crew chief from Homestead.

"Logistically, the biggest challenge was to coordinate airlift arrival and departure schedules for three very large Fighter Wings," said Master Sgt. Jay Lindsay, superintendent, 944 LRS/ Readiness. "As the lead logistician for the exercise, this was great training and this was the first time that I have experienced any deployment involving such a large magnitude of passengers and aircraft."

Colors of the rainbow were also evident in the cockpit of the F-16 throughout the exercise. Two-ship upgrade sorties were multi-unit to insure a single team approach. "Every single two-ship that went out there to do the upgrade with the instructor, were from different units, it worked out perfectly," Colonel Binger said.

Qualifying a pilot meant leading a 4-6 ship package through 4-5 sorties engaging the enemy in scenarios that could include such targets as an enemy truck convoy rumbling through a canyon attempting to elude the eyes of the Fighting Falcon. For Maj. Jose Monteagudo, 93 FS, Homestead ARB, his final FAC certification sortie depended on the eyes and experience of his "rainbow" package to get the job done. His six ship group represented the 457th FS, NAS Fort Worth JRB,Texas; 466th FS, Hill AFB, Utah; 93 FS, Homestead ARB, Fla.; and the 302 FS, Luke AFB, Ariz.

During Monteagudo's detailed certification de-brief, criticisms and suggestions from his peers were plentiful, at times critical, but the process further strengthened the "one-team" commitment. "Your deconfliction plan was clear, I just thought it was faulty…" said one pilot to Monteagudo. But after a few moments of constructive input and give-and-take, a better understanding of working as a team emerged.

And that is what Patriot Pronghorn was all about. "On a scale of 10, we are probably in the four to five range," states Lt.Col. Mike Brill. Colonel Brill was part of the six ship team on Monteagudo's final qualification sortie. "But we went from zero to that level in two weeks which is outstanding. Because we are mixed together, the lessons one unit is getting is just not going to that unit, but all four units."

The necessity of learning to work as one can still be a daunting task for Reserve fighter units in today's force structure. Despite the Reserve being a successful day-to-day force component, opportunities that Patriot Pronghorn presented shed light on critical tasks and skills that are always in need of "team" review.

Colonel Binger states, "When we are not in an AEF deployment, these types of exercises make good sense…to get together with an objective and complete it is great training."

As the Reserve fighter world looks to its AEF commitment in 2005, Patriot Pronghorn will be looked upon as a historic exercise in which the many colors of the Reserve came together at Luke AFB and formed a focused, committed look of confidence that at least for a 15 day period, was the face of relentless confidence.

"We have increased the combat capability that the Reserve brings to the fight against global terrorism," Colonel Binger concluded.

Training, mentoring prepares security forces Airmen for deployed mission

By Jake Shaw

Airmen of the 482nd Security Forces Squadron held a tactical training exercise here Dec. 5. The purpose of the exercise was to prepare them for a variety of possible scenarios if and when they deploy.

Convoy missions and urban operations are among the most common challenges for security forces Airmen in deployed areas, said Lt. Col. Mike Larkin, 482nd Fighter Wing's security forces chief. He recently completed a five-month deployment to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, where he commanded the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

Convoy attacks by terrorists using rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices and other weapons are responsible for many of the deaths and injuries in Iraq, he said. Service members now have a training tool to prepare for the kind of assaults insurgents wage against patrols and convoys.

To begin preparing his troops for their deployed missions, Colonel Larkin planned the exercise to include convoy training, leadership mentoring, urban-operations training and media relations.

"The time to learn these skills is not when you get overseas," said Master Sgt. Guy Gilbert, of the 482d SFS. Sergeant Gilbert is a 29-year veteran who served as the operations chief under Colonel Larkin at Kirkuk. During the exercise, Sergeant Gilbert was one of several evaluators who taught the basics of convoy operations, route preparation, communication and defensive tactics. But one of Sergeant Gilbert's key roles during the exercise was mentoring.

"They need to know what to do if something happens to their supervisor," he said.

What does someone do if his or her squad leader is killed in action? Everyone has to be prepared to step up and assume a leadership position, and "if you wait until you're overseas to become a leader, it might be too late," Sergeant Gilbert said.

The mentoring process was simple; during the exercise, everyone took turns playing the role of squad

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Photo by Senior Airman Sandra Bueno

After completion of the convoy training exercise, evaluators continued the mentoring process. Evaluators closely watched every move, providing meaningful instruction to the troops throughout the day.

Photo by Senior Airman Sandra Bueno

When the convoy reached its destination, they were ambushed by the enemy. After engaging the enemy in a realistic urban environment, the convoy captured several Enemy Prisoners of War.

leader. As the squads headed out on their convoy missions, they were hit by enemy fire. Evaluators like Sergeant Gilbert frequently changed the position of squad Airmen. An Airman might role-play as a supply troop one minute, and five minutes later he or she would become the squad leader.

Squad leaders were responsible for directing convoy missions, keeping their troops on the correct route and making split-second decisions that would affect their lives.

Staff Sgt. George Alexander, another evaluator during the exercise, grilled squad leaders throughout the day with three questions: "What's your route, how much ammo does each squad member have, and how are you communicating during the convoy?"

At the end of the day and after several dry runs, two separate squads headed out on a simulated convoy. But, before arriving at their destination, the convoys were attacked by enemy forces. Squad leaders on the convoys were forced to make the decision to either keep moving or stop and engage the attackers.

The simulated attacks occurred on an empty street, with insurgents firing on the convoys from abandoned buildings. The attack, set up by the exercise evaluators, gave troops the opportunity to practice their urban-fighting skills.

After entering the building, troops rescued four prisoners of war and one civilian who were injured during the firefight. Then, the troops were confronted by simulated reporters, who gave the troops a taste of what they can expect if they are ever confronted with journalists in a combat zone.

"The time to learn these skills is not when you get overseas." Master Sgt. Guy Gilbert, 482d SFS

At the end of the day, Sergeant Gilbert and the rest of the evaluation team said the key to convoy operations is situational awareness; they have to know when to stop and engage, and when to keep going. The criticism was much more specific for the urban-training exercise.

Urban fighting requires teams to enter buildings or areas using a funnel method. Once the initial entry point is secured, all teams enter through that point and funnel into the building, they said.

Though short in duration, the training was wide in scope and excellent preparation for potential combat operations, Colonel Larkin said.

"Many of our folks are newly promoted and have not yet deployed. Today's training gave these folks a small taste of what it's like to be a deployed security forces Airman," he said.

Photo by Lisa Macias

Above, Senior Airman Jorge Grande, with M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon in hand, is on the lookout for any perceived threats to the convoy. During this exercise, Airmen learned the basics of convoy security from evaluators like Master Sgt. Guy Gilbert, standing to the right.

Newly assigned personnel

Airman
Ruth Y. Lane, 70 APS

Airman 1st Class
Eddie Mosqueda, 482 AMXS
Eric Garber, 482 MDS
Chasity Johnson, 482 MDS
Julio Herrera, 482 MXS
Ralph Troutman, 70 APS

Senior Airman
Ryan Andrada, 482 AMXS
Maximillion Lewis, 482 AMXS
Solomon Sklon, 482 CS
Michael Adair, 482 MDS

Senior Airman
Karolina Huie, 482 MED
Kevin Brenner, 482 MXS
Angela Jenkins, 482 MXS
John Quinlan, 482 MXS
Levon Smith, Jr., 482 MXS
Robert Crawford, 70 APS
Pablo Navarette, Jr., 70 APS

Staff Sgt.
James Maloney, 482 CES
Anthony Martinez, 482 FW
Darren Saliva, 482 MXS
Sharon Moore, 482 SVS

Staff Sgt.
Jason Rayl, 70 APS
Kirsten Golden, 93 FS

Maj.
Phillip Lozman, 482 MDS

Retirements

Master Sgt.
Terry Conrad, 482 CES

Lt. Col.
Matt Christ, 482 FW

Enlisted promotions –preparation is the key

By Master Sgt. Tina Davis
482d FW CareerAssistance Advisor

You have to know how the system works if you want to get promoted. From the time you graduate basic training and technical school, you should know what's necessary to be eligible for your next promotion. Although your supervisor should inform you about the requirements, the responsibility is ultimately yours to make sure you are eligible for promotion.

The promotion cycle runs on the first day of the month, every other month starting with January. Promotion consideration is based on skill level, time in service and grade, Professional Military Education (PME) and members must have satisfactory participation with no unexcused absences.

The procedures for promotion cycles are simple; rosters of eligible personnel are sent to unit commanders one month prior to the effective date of promotion. Members eligible for promotion must meet all requirements for skill level, time in service and grade, PME and satisfactory participation prior to the effective date of promotion, and must be recommended by their supervisor with an Air Force Form 224.

Additionally, any member promoted to Master Sgt., Senior Master Sgt., or Chief Master Sgt. must sign a Reserve Service Commitment (RSC) contract, obligating them to hold the rank for a minimum of two years. All required paperwork, including RSC contracts and AF Form 224's must be returned to the Career Enhancement section along with the approved promotion roster. If you have questions or need further assistance please contact the Career Enhancement section at (305) 224-7135.

Promotion requirements

(Adapted from AFI 36-2502)

Promotion to	Skill level	Time in Grade	Time in Service	PME
Airman 1st Class	None	6 months	None	None
Senior Airman	3	8 months	1 year	None
Staff Sgt.	3/5	12 months	4 years	ALS
Tech Sgt.	7	18 months	5 years	None
Master Sgt.	7	24 months	8 years	NCO Academy
Senior Master Sgt.	7/9	24 months	11 years	SNCO Academy
Chief Master Sgt.	9	24 months	14 years	None

Profiles of reserve members

By Master Sgt. Maureen Murray, 482 Maintenance Operations Center (edited by Jake Shaw)

I was born March 11, 1950, in Salem, Mass., a small town steeped in history and famous for witches, and I did everything I could to add to its lore.

My parents, Madeline and Frank immigrated from Ireland years ago with nothing but the clothes on their back, a will to be better and the promise of beginning a family.

My mother was a stay at home mom and my father was an oil delivery man in our hometown of Salem. When I was born, my parents decided to name me "Bonnie Coleen," which in Irish meant "good girl". But, the Catholic Priest explained with great regret that their daughter could not be named Bonnie because it wasn't a saint's name. With only a few moments to make a decision on what to name their little girl, they decided to call her Maureen Ann. My mom said I was named after my grandmother Mary and my godmother Marie. But I learned later that my father chose the name because he had a crush on the actress Maureen O'Hara.

I grew up in Salem with a large family, six brothers and one sister. I was always a bit headstrong as a child, so my father decided to place me in an all-girls Catholic high school to try and contain me and teach me to study diligently.

Before graduation I attended a seminar and decided to become a nun, but Mother Superior advised me to choose a different career field. So I finished high school and worked three jobs to help support my large family.

In 1968 I joined the Air Force and headed to Texas for basic training. It was a whole new world for me, and my training instructors weren't very nice at first, but they warmed up after awhile. My first permanent assignment was at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where I met my future husband.

In 1969 the military had different rules about women. So when my unit found out I was pregnant, I was honorably discharged and told I could no longer serve.

Between 1969 and 1982, I lived the life of a military spouse. I gave birth to two girls and a boy, and it always seemed like my husband was deployed to either Korea or Thailand. To keep myself busy, I worked several different jobs, and even ran my own business in Homestead for a while.

Air Force Reserve photo

Master Sgt. Maureen Murray is the daughter of Irish immigrants who came to America with nothing but the clothes on their back and a will to do better. For the past 22 years, Sergeant Murray has served the 482d Fighter Wing with pride.

One day I heard someone mention a unit in Homestead called the 482d Tactical Fighter Wing so I filled out my paperwork and was soon hired on, and the rest is history.

In June 1982, I started working as a documentation clerk in the plans and scheduling office. Then in June, 1984, I joined the 482d TFW as a reservist. I worked in plans and scheduling until I went to Maintenance Operations Center and am currently working there.

Since joining the 482d FW, I've participated in so many exercises, there are too many to list in this article. I've participated in Operation Northern Watch four times, Operation Southern Watch once, and I received a Superior Performer Award from 10th Air Force during the 2004 Operational Readiness Inspection here at Homestead.

I've had an illustrious and colorful military career, but perhaps most satisfying is that I have a daughter who is also a member of the 482d FW. I think the greatest compliment a mother could receive is knowing your children believe in something you instilled in them.

Know someone who should be recognized?

The Human Resource Development Council is always on the lookout for motivated Airmen with diverse backgrounds. If you know a fellow reservist who has overcome great obstacles in their life and you would like to help them share their success story, contact Lt. Col. Robert Delgado at (305) 224-7821, or robert.delgado@homestead.af.mil

HRDC profiles are great testimonials to the Air Force Reserve and the 482d Fighter Wing.

Privilege, never a right

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean
NCOIC, 482d FW/PA

A sense of pride filled the air as members of the 482d Logistics Readiness Squadron milled around their conference room prior to the open-ranks, dress uniform inspection Dec. 5.

An Airman straightened another's tie, a collar was fixed and everybody looked down and over to see if they'd forgotten something…

It reminded me of an Airman I met several years ago who wasn't so diligent.

Something magical strikes when you finally get it right: a gig line defining plumb; glimmering medals painstakingly aligned above double-flush ribbon racks; a strong crease breaking easily and crisp, inches above the vamp of deep-black shined shoes. Male or female, the Air Force dress uniform is such a strong statement that even I look somewhat presentable when I put it on (so said my wife anyway).

Some of us earned the privilege of wearing a service dress uniform many years ago, some very recently. Some earned the privilege in another service, others have always been blue. But none of this matters. We must all remember that the wearing of the dress uniform is not a right that we earned for completing basic training — it's a privilege that comes with an ongoing commitment to honoring the uniforms' history, tradition and symbolism.

Deficiencies in appearance while in dress uniform are unacceptable: on base or off, inside or outside.

The same painstaking commitment to excellence that you took (whether voluntarily or because of threats of bodily harm from your training instructor) at graduation from basic should guide you each time the blues come off a hanger. The uniform represents the pride and honor of those who served before you, those alongside you and those who will follow. Nothing about the uniform has changed since the day of graduation. Nothing about your preparation or display should have either.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Lt. Col. Chuck Mood, 482d LRS Commander, prepares to inspect Staff Sgt. Veronica Mosqueda during an open ranks uniform inspection on Dec. 5.

The Air Force dress uniform sends a signal of pride, power and honor. A formation of men and women in blue sends the same message — amplified many times over. It is an honor and privilege to be in blues, and to be part of a blue formation offers both great responsibilities and greater opportunities for inner satisfaction. But just as the good is amplified through multiplication, the effects of disrespect and laziness on the part of one person will corrupt the entire event.

Each of us must remember wearing the service dress uniform (in any configuration) never becomes a *right*: the service dress uniform commands due respect and should be worn properly and completely, or not at all.