

Global Strike annual award winners announced

By Crystal Jordan
Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs

Air Force Global Strike Command honored the command's annual award winners during a banquet here March 10.

Retired Maj. Gen. Timothy McMahon, who retired in 2003 as commander of Twentieth Air Force at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., spoke to attendees about the culture of excellence in Air Force Global Strike Command.

Global Strike Airmen "strengthen the readiness of our strategic forces, while rebuilding the culture of compliance this mission critically depends upon," General McMahon said.

"Tonight, we have the privilege of recognizing Airmen and civilians who have stood up to heavy responsibilities and have exceeded high expectations," General McMahon said. "They have done so in a staff that is already building a great reputation for high performance across the Air Force and the broader nuclear enterprise."

The Honorees

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Keck, a contracted maintenance evaluator who supervises, services and maintains missiles assigned to the 576th Flight Training Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., is Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Sergeant Keck teamed with 30 Civil Engineering personnel to assess missile launch tube liners, certifying a \$6 million launch facility for intercontinental ballistic missile test operations. Sergeant Keck also pursued credits toward his bachelor's degree in sports and health science, maintaining a 3.9 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and donated more than 250 hours to coaching youth sport programs.

Master Sgt. Shane Grosso, a command post inspector assigned to the Air Force Global Strike Command Inspector General at Barksdale, is Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Sergeant Grosso, a first-time superintendent, led a team of 14 Airmen at his command post to win 2010 Air Force Command

SEE AWARDS, 2A



Lt. Col. James Marks, 917th Operations Support Flight commander, and Master Sgt. Edward Fairchild, dedicated crew chief, answer questions about the A-10 Thunderbolt at the Wings Over The Red Fly-In and Airport Open House.

A-10 Thunderbolt: Highlight at Wings Over the Red Fly-In

Article & photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston
307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

An A-10 Thunderbolt was a highlight of more than 24 static displays at the "Wings Over the Red Fly-In and Airport Open House" hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Associate, Chapter 343 at the Shreveport Downtown Airport on March 19.

The A-10 from the 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale stood out among the experimental and vintage aircraft on display. Lt. Col. James Marks, 917th Operations Support Flight commander, and Master Sgt. Edward Fairchild, 917th FG dedicated crew chief, were on hand to explain the capabilities of the aircraft to the visitors and other pilots there for the event.

"As pilots, we share this airspace and we have a good working relationship. It's always a good thing when we can talk to other pilots in the area about what we do at Barksdale," Colonel Marks said. "We want pilots to know what we are doing out here as military aviators so we can avoid mishaps."

During the open house, Marion Cole, who is an air show legend, was presented an award for a lifetime of flying. Often described as "the best pilot you've never heard of," Cole had his commercial and instructor rating by the age of 18 and soon joined the Navy's Reserve program. He started flying in air shows in 1946. He logged more than 30,000 hours of flying.

David H. Leedom, who is the son of Lt. Col. David Leedom, 93rd Bomb Squadron commander, completed his initial solo with Marion Cole 10 years ago when he was only 16.

The "Wings Over the Red Fly-In and Airport Open House" also featured six general aviation aircraft and pilots who flew Young Eagles aviation students on short flights around the Downtown Airport area in Shreveport. The



Lt. Col. Mark T. Olson (left) 917th Fighter Group chief of safety, taxis a Boeing Stearman PT-17 to a parking spot at the Wings Over The Red Fly-In and Airport Open House hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Associate, Chapter 343, at the Shreveport Downtown Airport. The aircraft was used in World War II as a trainer for pilots before they moved on to more advanced aircraft in their pilot training. Colonel Olson is an Air Force Reserve pilot assigned to the 917 FG at Barksdale and flew the aircraft to the event for the Commemorative Air Force so it could be displayed with more than 24 other aircraft for visitors to view at the event.

EAA Young Eagles program was created to welcome young people into the world of aviation. The experience is designed to give the participants a new perspective on the world and life in general.

The Downtown Airport was the original air carrier airport in Shreveport dating back to 1931. That same year, the airport received its first commercial airline when Delta Airlines chose a route through Shreveport as part of its

initial flight schedule. The route consisted of Dallas to Shreveport and on to Monroe and to Jackson, Miss.

A free hamburger lunch was provided by the EAA for pilots and support personnel of the general aviation aircraft that were flown in for the event. Millen Air also provided 50 gallons of free fuel to the general aviation aircraft that was flown in from the farthest distance away.

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SATURDAY
2 p.m.: "Gnomeo & Juliet" (G)
7 p.m.: "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" (G)

COMMENTARY: Being an Air Force leader, 2A

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All submissions and story ideas can be e-mailed to Danielle Hill at dhill4@gannett.com and/or 2BW Public Affairs at 2BW.PA@barksdale.af.mil, and must include full rank, name and phone number for the author. All articles will be edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and journalistic style.

For more Air Force Global Strike news, visit www.afgsc.af.mil.

For more 8th Air Force news, visit www.8af.af.mil.

For more Barksdale news, visit www.barksdale.af.mil.

For more 307th Bomb Wing news, visit www.307bw.afrc.af.mil.

Being an Air Force leader

By Lt. Col. Troy Koepnick

2nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander
 The U.S. Air Force is a great organization because we demand leadership at all ranks and levels. So, what is leadership? Is it developed or is it innate? How do we apply leadership? These questions, and many like them, are raised and discussed at each of the various professional military courses that most of us are likely to attend through the course of an Air Force career.

Leadership can be defined as the ability to set a vision and then inspire others to achieve it. In order to inspire, a leader must express certain values and qualities that both attract and motivate people into action.

A leader immediately acknowledges their responsibility and knows the faith subordinates place in them is based on trust — the most important component of leadership. A leader sets the vision and tone for subordinates, but doesn't abuse them for personal gain. Subordinates must in turn trust their leader to accomplish the stated vision.

How does a true leader gain trust? Trust is earned through the adherence to values and morals, and the Air Force got it right when they defined our core values as, "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do." Basically, "integrity first" means to do the right thing regardless of personal consequences. "Service before self" gives meaning to our endeavors by placing something (other than ourselves) as the higher good. Finally, "excellence in all we do" can be restated as giving our best for the greater good. If a leader possesses these values, there is no limit to what people will accomplish for him or her.

I propose there are two types of leaders. First, is the natural born leader

er whose innate abilities are evident throughout their life. The second, and most common, type of leader is one who is developed by family experiences, school, training and life experiences.

Families instill beliefs and values that influence their world view. School interactions also socialize a person to lead or follow by the positions and opportunities offered. The final and most difficult to define piece is experience. People faced with extraordinary events may react by taking charge of themselves (self awareness) and then set a vision for mission accomplishment. This determined experience and reaction may in turn inspire those around them to work to achieve the set vision. These three factors combined are what defines a person as a leader or follower.

So, how should a values-based leader, either developed or born, lead their organization?

According to author C.R. Hickman, "Great leaders set a vision, focus on keys to success and remain involved." This is true, but leaders must also assess the needs of their subordinates and, as required, vary their leadership styles (i.e. authoritative, affiliative, democratic and coaching) to facilitate success.

Leaders bear a great responsibility for positioning both their organization and assigned personnel for success. They consciously and unconsciously apply their value system, learned traits and experiences to inspire subordinates to achieve their vision without compromise. Therefore, leaders must become self-aware and constantly hone their talents through training, education and experience.

Are you ready to apply the necessary components of leadership and become a great leader?

Awards

Continued from Page 1A

Post of the Year, in addition to eight wing and major command level awards. The team excelled as a whole in all operational aspects, base involvement and personal growth. Sergeant Grosso also served as Air Force Global Strike Command's first-ever Top Three treasurer and co-authored bylaws for the organization.

Master Sgt. Lucius Turner, a first sergeant assigned to the 576th Flight Test Squadron at Vandenberg, is Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year. Sergeant Turner averted crisis within the unit by guiding a member through suicidal ideation, saving a life and returning the Airman to duty. Sergeant Turner also served as a regular speaker for First Term Airmen classes and non-commissioned officer seminars, and volunteered with the Angel Tree Toy Drive by collecting and delivering gifts to families during the holidays.

Capt. Michael Askegren, the deputy of operations at Air Force Global Strike Command Logistics, Installation and Mission Support directorate at Barksdale, is Outstanding Company Grade Officer of the Year. Captain Askegren led more than 150 Airmen in Civil Engineering's largest construction effort in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The effort, totaling 27 projects at a cost of \$9.3 million, was crucial to a 30,000 troop surge in theater. Captain Askegren mastered international plumbing codes, enabling an in-house design of \$612,000 medical clinic, saving the Air Force more than \$25,000.

Maj. Patrick Baum, an intercontinental ballistic missile program element monitor responsible for building future ICBM program concepts is Outstanding Field Grade Officer of the Year. As a member of Air Force Global Strike Command's Plans and Requirements division, Major Baum managed a more than \$1 billion annual budget for Minuteman III appropriations critical to nuclear deterrence and global strike programs. Major Baum also volunteered as a local Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader.

Michelle Adkins, an executive assistant assigned to Air Force Global Strike Command's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance directorate at Barksdale, is Category I Outstanding Civilian of the Year. Adkins tracked \$686,000 in directorate funding in addition to \$1.6 million in contract funding, helping to ensure more than 60 tasks were completed.

Susan Thomas, an investigations and inquiries specialist assigned to the Air Force Global Strike Command Inspector General at Barksdale, is Category II Outstanding Civilian of the

Year. Thomas led the development of Freedom of Information Act processes for the command through report analysis and redacting of personal information, protecting witness identity and the integrity of the Inspector General. Thomas also dedicated more than 100 hours to underprivileged families and served with Volunteers of America.

John Meehan, a mechanical engineer assigned to Air Force Global Strike Command Logistics, Installation and Mission Support at Barksdale, is Category III Outstanding Civilian of the Year. Meehan aided in the beddown of more than 750 personnel, which was key to the command meeting full operational capability on Sept. 30, 2010. He also monitored construction activities, ensuring final beddown of the command remained on-track. Meehan also raised funds for and donated time to children with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, musculoskeletal disorders and cancer.

Military winners competed to be named in Air Force Global Strike Command's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year on March 24.

SAFETY CORNER



Staff Sgt. John Gordinier/U.S. Air Force

Airmen and DoD civilians admire motorcycles during a motorcycle rally on Barksdale on March 23. More than 75 Airmen showed up for the event where they were educated on motorcycle safety and personal protective equipment. The event was held to prepare riders for the upcoming riding season by educating them in maintenance, safety and to learn types of bikes that are available for new riders. Members could also sign up for free rider courses to prepare them for the spring.

Motorcycle safety tips

From 2nd Bomb Wing Safety office

Motorcycle riders of the Mighty Deuce, 8th Air Force and Air Force Global Strike Command: As some of you may know, April and May are notoriously the most deadly months for Air Force motorcycle riders. Since October 2001, 51 Airmen have lost their lives to motorcycle mishaps. Of these tragic losses, 28 lives were lost in April and 23 were lost in May. Barksdale is not immune to these statistics. Since October 2001, Barksdale has lost two Airmen.

The first was in September 2004. An Airman was a passenger on a 2002 650 cc motorcycle. The motorcycle struck a sport utility vehicle that pulled out in front of him from a side street after running a stop sign. From all indications, the riders were travelling at the posted speed limit of 45 mph. After the accident, the driver sustained multiple fractures and the passenger died during surgery.

Additionally, a 21-year-old Airman was lost to a motorcycle mishap in 2009. He was riding a 600 cc motorcycle home after attending an off-duty training class. The Airman was traveling southbound in the left lane of a four-lane divided street. He was estimated traveling between 55 and 66 mph in a 25 mph speed limit zone when he accelerated around a vehicle in the right lane. At the same time, another vehicle was pulling out from a stop sign and crossing the roadway. This driver was unable to get out of the path of the motorcycle. Our Airman impacted the left front corner panel of the vehicle and sustained injuries that led to his death while in route to the emergency room. He was fully trained and wearing all required personal protective equipment. The key factor in this mishap was speed. Our Airman failed to apply personal risk management principles while sharing the roadway and the outcome impacted not only his unit, but also his family and friends.

While knowing it's important and paramount to apply personal risk management in all off-duty activities, it is especially critical to apply them while riding your motorcycle. Here are a few tips for motorcyclists to help enhance safety:

- Obey the speed limit: Speeding is the No. 1 contributing factor in motorcycle crashes.
- Enroll in rider education: It's all about control. Whether you are a novice or experienced rider, the Air Force provides funding for motorcycle training courses for all rider skill levels, which can reduce injuries and save lives.
- Ride responsibly: Personal rider safety starts with you. Before every ride, make sure your machine is in safe operating condition and always wear approved clothing and reflective safety gear including a Department of Transportation approved helmet. The bottom line is simple — ride safely for you and your passenger's sake, as well as others on the road.
- Ride conspicuously: Proper lane usage will reduce your chances of being in another driver's blind spot and lessen the probability of being in a crash. Be aware of your surroundings and always maintain a safety zone.
- Ride sober: Don't ride impaired by alcohol or drugs and discourage other riders from making a bad choice. Intervene if you can, it's the right thing to do. Use the wingman concept.

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A first sergeant's dream

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston
307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

What started off as a forgettable experience for an Airman assigned to the 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale has led to the achievement of a longtime goal.

Master Sgt. Melissa Hubbard, 307th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, entered the Air Force by way of the Delayed Entry Program. She completed basic training in February 1997. Like a majority of Airmen, she hated it.

my registered nurse degree and resign my ART position. I cross-trained into another career field and became a traditional Reservist."



Master Sgt. Hubbard

When an e-mail popped up in her inbox about first sergeant applications being accepted, she jumped at it.

Sergeant Hubbard prepared her package and application and provided it to the command chief. She sat through a detailed board selection and finally received the call.

"I remember it as if it were yesterday. 'Would you like to be a shirt? We want you to be a shirt.' Yes! So off to First Sergeant Academy I went. It was the best formal school I had ever attended," Sergeant Hubbard said.

According to Sergeant Hubbard, the road her career has taken has not always been a smooth one. Little did she know at the time of her enlistment her journey would lead her to a position few Airmen ever achieve ... first sergeant.

"I have just realized a dream I've had for some time now. I'm a first sergeant in the United States Air Force Reserve," Sergeant Hubbard said. "Other than my marriage and the birth of my son, this is the most amazing thing in my life I've accomplished."

"I was told that I would make lifelong friends and never forget my shirt life. I'm living proof those words are true," she said. "This is a wonderful opportunity and I am enjoying every moment of it. Knowing that I may shape my son's future by developing future leaders of the military is quite an amazing opportunity. In addition, knowing I may touch a life that needed a mentor, friend or just an ear to lend is breathtaking in its own right. My career in a sense has just begun and I am excited to take this journey."

However, according to Sergeant Hubbard, she was ready to go home and spend time with her family, so after four years she left the Air Force but soon realized this was a mistake.

"It took the tragedy of 9/11 to light a fire inside me again. I knew I was joining back up, but I wanted to do it differently this time," Sergeant Hubbard said. "I called an Air Force Reserve recruiter."

Sergeant Hubbard joined the 917th Medical Squadron at Barksdale, applied for an Air Reserve Technician position and was accepted.

"After six and a half years as an ART, I knew I wanted more," she said. "I've always thought about being a first sergeant." As an ART, Sergeant Hubbard was ineligible to hold a position as a first sergeant.

"Fortunately, my husband encouraged me to pursue



Congressman John C. Fleming receives an orientation flight from Maj. Joseph Babboni, 11th Bomb Squadron pilot, in a B-52.

Louisiana congressman visits Barksdale, takes flight in B-52

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Alexandra M. Boutte



Capt. Nathan Mott, 11th Bomb Squadron pilot, sits behind Congressman Fleming in a B-52. Captain Mott briefed the congressman about the aircraft's capabilities.

RIGHT: The crew of a B-52 Stratofortress, Maj. Jonathon Beavers, Capt. Robert Campbell, and Maj. Nathan Mott, all from the 11th Bomb Squadron, Congressman Fleming, Lt. Col. Richard Holt, 93rd Bomb Squadron, Maj. Joseph Babboni, 11 BS, and Lt. Col. Kieran Denehan, 11 BS commander, pose for a photo after the Congressman's orientation flight.



A Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist guides Congressman Fleming through life support training at Barksdale before his orientation flight. Life support training includes local area survival, emergency parachute training and emergency egress training.



Washing the dirt away



Senior Airman Allison M. Boehm/U.S. Air Force Matt Mays, base contractor, pressure washes the sidewalk of the 2nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Barksdale. Recent construction left the sidewalks covered in dirt.

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FCC offers in-home alternative to child care

By Danielle Hill
dhill4@gannett.com

If large-group child care is not the option for your child, the Family Child Care program at Barksdale has the answer.

FCC is an in-home child-care system with military and Department of Defense spouses as the providers. These providers can be found both on- and off-base.

Each provider is limited to having six children in their home. This helps with more one-on-one interaction between the child and provider.

"The atmosphere is more like a family — warm, loving, safe, secure with consistent supportive care," said Margie Tackett, 2nd Force Support Squadron FCC coordinator. "Your child receives individualized attention because there are never more than six children under the age of 8."

Currently, there are 14 providers on-base and one provider off-base, with two other providers in the application process. For a base the size of Barksdale, 20 providers are recommended.

All providers must take training courses through 2 FSS. The classes taught provide education, business, nutrition, curriculum, and health and safety. The classes are free. Providers also receive free equipment and supplies. Licensing is mandatory for base residents caring for children for more than 10 hours.

"After the applicant meets all the criteria to become a provider, then the pre-approval part starts. They must fill out an application and an authorization for a background check. Five base agencies complete background checks on each applicant and a statement from the sponsor's supervisor is required. A family interview by the coordinator and the training and inspections must be completed. The FCC panel and the 2nd Mission Support Group commander will review all of the records and approve the applicant," she said.

Off-base providers go through the same process as on-base providers. However, licensure cannot take place if the applicant lives in an apartment. According to Tackett, each residence must have two exits on the main floor to pass fire inspection.

"A licensed provider from Barksdale has to follow USDA, DoD and FCC regulations and be prepared to be inspected

For more information

For a list of current providers, call (318) 456-3354 or pick up a list from most 2 FSS programs around Barksdale.

To sign your child up for FCC, contact the provider who provides care you are looking for to set up an interview.

Training to become a Family Child Care provider will be held April 25-29. The training is a weeklong course pertaining to child development, child guidance, nutrition, setting up your home, business aspects of running your own business, food handler's, CPR and first aid.

To sign up, call Margie at (318) 456-3354 or e-mail margaret.tackett@barksdale.af.mil.

To become a provider, the applicant must:

- ▶ Be at least 18 years of age.
- ▶ Have a high school diploma.
- ▶ Have the ability to read, speak and write English.
- ▶ Be physically and mentally capable of providing care.
- ▶ Willing and able to complete the required training.
- ▶ Able to obtain the required liability insurance.
- ▶ Willing to agree in writing to the requirements for family child-care providers.

at any time by those agencies along with fire, health and safety. There is required training for the first year that can be used for college credit in early childhood development," Tackett said. "After the first year, they are required to have 24 hours a year of continuing education in the early childhood area, along with the training that is required annually. They also have to have a physical every two years and their entire family, to include pets, has to be current on all immunizations."

The FCC also offers Expanded Child Care to help families with special circumstances, such as extended duty hours, deployments and Air Force Guard and Air Force Reserve members who need child care during their drill weekend.



Senior Master Sgt. John Mattheis, 307th RED HORSE Squadron pavement construction equipment operator, portrays an indigenous resident during a four-day exercise at the RED HORSE Squadron compound on Barksdale.

RED HORSE Squadron trains for deployments

U.S. Air Force photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston

Staff Sgt. Michael Sullivan, 307th RED HORSE Squadron structural journeyman, prepares to connect communications equipment from the command post to defensive fighting positions during an exercise. Members of the 307th RED HORSE Squadron are participating in an exercise that is simulating a deployment to a Southwest

Asia location where the Airmen are building helicopter landing pads for a U.S. Marine unit.



Senior Airmen Josh Davis and Robyn Bell perform enviable kitchen duties on the second day of a four-day exercise. Airman Davis is a structural apprentice and Airman Bell is a personnel apprentice. Both Airmen are assigned to the 307th RED HORSE Squadron at Barksdale.

Tech. Sgt. Charles Smith, 307th RED HORSE Squadron operations management specialist, and 2nd Lt. Chelsea Clemens, 307th RED HORSE Squadron logistics readiness officer, check range cards with the Airmen stationed at defensive fighting positions around the RED HORSE Squadron compound.



Tech. Sgt. Michael Baldwin, pavement and concrete heavy equipment operator, checks a weapon turned in by Staff Sgt. Wayne Shipman, structural journeyman, before stowing it in a weapons locker.

Global Strike Command Chief Master Sergeant announced

From Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs

Adding to the excitement of the 2011 Commander's Conference, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback was announced as the new Command Chief Master Sergeant for Air Force Global Strike Command during a luncheon March 23. Lt. Gen. Jim Kowalski also made the announcement from his Twitter account @AFGSC_CC later that evening.







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Barksdale active duty, reservists complete first 'Total Force' B-52 sortie

Article & photos by Master Sgt. Greg Steele

307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

After completing a five-hour sortie, the wheels of the B-52 Stratofortress touched down on a still wet runway at Barksdale. The drag chute deployed, gradually slowing the jet.

Rain, hail and two "lightning within five" delays couldn't put a damper on the significance of the day's event. Despite the relentless challenges of the weather, operations and maintenance personnel from the 2nd Bomb Wing, 343rd Bomb Squadron and the 707th Maintenance Squadron persevered with the launch and recovery of a B-52 bomber on a mission that was history in the making and a definite win for the Total Force Enterprise. Senior leadership in the 307th Bomb Wing has always expressed that TFE would succeed, and it did.

"This is the first time regular Air Force and reservists combined to generate a B-52 sortie on a Unit Training Assembly weekend," said Capt. Chris Robinson, 343 BS co-pilot. "It is a truly blended effort." The 343 BS, along with its maintainers in the 707 MXS, are classic associate Air Force Reserve squadrons assigned to the 2 BW at Barksdale.

The term "classic associate" means a Regular Air Force unit retains the principal responsibility for a weapon system or systems, and shares the equipment with one or more reserve component units. In layman's terms, 2 BW owns the B-52s and equipment, while the reservists supply personnel to fly and support the mission side-by-side with Regular Air Force personnel. This is the Total Force Enterprise; sharing resources, reducing duplication of efforts, and

reducing the number of people needed to accomplish a task.

"Right now, with the help of our maintainers and reservists, we can put together a 50/50 mix to support the flying," said Col. John Vitacca, 2nd Operations Group commander. "The 343 BS is a fully integrated squadron within the ops group and wing (2 BW). When their folks go to work tomorrow, they'll roll right into the same lineup with our people as a combat squadron."

For the Airman involved, the task at hand was to generate a nuclear training sortie for the 343 BS, which happened March. While aircrew members of sortie "Skull 61," all reservists assigned to the 343 BS, assembled at their squadron for a pre-flight briefing, 707 MXS and 2 BW maintenance personnel battled the weather to ready the jet for aircrew arrival and takeoff. After a few lightning delays, the aircrew arrived, engines were started, and the B-52, tail number 60-008 and flag ship for the 8th Air Force, was off the ground.

"The mission ... is Continuation Training to refresh currencies for members of the crew who haven't flown in awhile," said Maj. Jimmy Jackson, 343 BS flight commander. The mission consisted of the aircrew flying the B-52 over West Texas and simulating the launch of nuclear Air Launched Cruise Missiles. They met up with a KC-135 refueling jet to give the pilot and co-pilot in-air refueling practice. Once completed, they turned the B-52 north for Smokey Hill bombing range near Salina, Kansas. Once there, the aircrew practiced the simulated release of nuclear gravity bombs while evading surface-to-air radar guided missile tracks.

"The pilots ... training on air



Senior Airman Jarod Feller, 707th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, marshals a B-52 from the 2nd Bomb Wing back to its parking spot following its return from a nuclear training mission. The 707 MXS is an Air Force Reserve classic associate unit assigned to the 2nd Maintenance Group and supports the 343rd Bomb Squadron. The launch of this crew and aircraft was significant for being the first supported by 2 BW operations and maintenance personnel during a 307th Bomb Wing Reserve Unit Training Assembly.

refueling and providing a stable platform for the navigators to release the weapons, and the electronic warfare officer ... a practicing on defending against missile threats. The whole crew getting into the action," Major Jackson said.

"In the military, we often refer to an occasion as historic. I'm not sure this will be remembered as a historically significant event, but it is an extremely important sortie," said Lt. Col. Jeff Stogsdill, 343 BS commander. "If it isn't recorded into a history book, that's OK, because we know it as a crucial step in the classic integration of the 343 BS into the 2 BW."



A B-52 bomber from the 2nd Bomb Wing taxis for takeoff at Barksdale. Aircraft 60-008, the 8th Air Force flag ship, was crewed by Air Force Reserve members of the 343rd Bomb Squadron, which is a classic associate unit assigned to the 2 BW.

Rendering a salute

Staff Sgt. Sean Mitchell, 20th Air Support Operations Squadron, renders a salute during the Fallen Comrade's Tribute during Barksdale's Airman Leadership School graduation at Hoban Hall. ALS is the first step in professional military education for all Airmen — Class 11-4 had 62 graduates who will return to their work centers and utilize the skills they learned in their first PME experience.



Senior Airman La'Shanette V. Garrett/U.S. Air Force



Airman 1st Class Micaiah Anthony/U.S. Air Force

Pie in the face

Airman Stephen Hudson shoves a pie in the face of Tech Sgt. Felisha Boyd, both 2nd Force Support Squadron, during a fundraising event at the Barksdale Fitness Center. The 2nd Mission Support Group held a pie-in-the-face fundraiser, which yielded more than \$900 for the Air Force Assistance Fund.

CGOC prepares for events

By 2nd Lt. Tori Lalich

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Company Grade Officers Council kicked off the year and has begun weekly meetings in various locations around Barksdale to plan and prepare for 2011 events.

The council is comprised of officers ranging from second lieutenants to captains, across all career fields, who want to actively support the base, improve relationships with the local community and promote professional development among the base's junior officers.

The council president, 1st Lt. Ben Meighan, promised Barksdale can expect great things from their CGOs this year.

"Our big activities are Oktoberfest and Operation Bright Christmas," he said. "But this year, we plan to be much more involved. We want to work closely with Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from state colleges and have activities that help connect the base and the community. We also want to have events that focus on our Airmen."

Another area the council plans to focus on is providing more networking opportunities for the junior officers on base, he said.

According to Article Four of the CGO Charter, all military members assigned to Barksdale regardless of branch of service, within 0-1 to 0-3 grades, are members of the Company Grade Officer Council.

"The difference between being a member and being involved is who shows up to the meetings

For more information

Anyone interested in participating and volunteering with the CGOC should e-mail 1st Lt. Ben Meighan at benjamin.meighan@barksdale.af.mil or call (318) 456-6049.

and helps out. We have events and activities that will suit every person and meet every interest. This is about networking and helping out the base and surrounding community," Lieutenant Meighan said.

Several council members are already preparing for educational trips to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and Louisiana Technical University in Ruston to meet with cadets and others interested in the military.

"We, as CGOs, have an opportunity in the military not everyone else has," he said. "We have an outside perspective, being fairly new to the military, and yet we are looked up to and respected by our Airmen. What we do with that respect and rank is in our hands. We can use it to do good around us, around Barksdale, or we can let it go stagnant and do nothing."

The CGO Council's first formal fundraising event of the year will be at the Defenders of Liberty Air Show on May 7-8. Council members and volunteers will be working at booths to serve food and drinks to the air show audience.



Staff Sgt. Josh Wemdt, power support equipment specialist, helps maneuver aerospace ground equipment off of an automotive lift inside the new AGE wash rack at Barksdale. The new AGE wash rack is scheduled to open Tuesday.

AGE flight receives new wash rack

Article & photo by Senior Airman Allison M. Boehm

2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs
The 2nd Maintenance Group Aerospace Ground Equipment flight received a new wash rack for their equipment that is scheduled to be in use Tuesday.

AGE is responsible for more than 800 pieces of equipment that are worth approximately \$40 million. From bomblifts to hydraulic test stands, AGE's equipment helps maintain the B-52 aircraft, so their equipment must also be maintained.

The old wash rack, which was essentially a corner lot of pavement next to the AGE hangar, was exposed to the elements, had no lighting and had dilapidated equipment.

"Simply put, the old wash rack was inadequate," said Master Sergeant Nate Barnhart, AGE flight chief. "We require our Airmen to be professionals and do expert work. We need to give them the tools to do so, and this wash rack will do that."

The new wash rack, which is adjacent to Hoban Hall on the flightline, is a state-of-the-art temperature-controlled facility that includes heaters, pressure washers, air compressors, automotive lifts and is environmentally friendly.

According to Tech. Sgt. Christa Sullinger, AGE mobility manager, her Airmen are ready for the new wash rack to open.

"I'm really looking forward to using the new wash rack," said Senior Airman Tony Hancock, AGE mechanic. "Being out of the elements and having lighting will definitely help with work. We are going to be able to accomplish so much more and be more efficient."

Since the wash rack is now an indoor facility, Sergeant Sullinger added, "The AGE Airmen will be able to accomplish equipment cleaning day or night."

AGE Airmen will now be better able to prevent corrosion on their equipment.

"We are going to be able to accomplish so much more and be more efficient"

Senior Airman Tony Hancock

2nd Maintenance Group Aerospace Ground Equipment mechanic

An Air Force family

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston
307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

When the secretary and the chief of staff of the Air Force named July 2009-July 2010 Year of the Air Force Family, they probably had no idea how far the Rodriguez family would take it or how long it might actually last.

Being a part of an Air Force Family, Lt. Col. Rafael Rodriguez, 343rd Bomb Squadron B-52 radar navigator, recently had the honor of commissioning his own daughter, 2nd Lt. Beverly Rodriguez, into the Air Force at the health recruiter's office in Arlington, Texas, on Feb. 16.

As his wife, Sandy, and a

recruiter looked on, Colonel Rodriguez Rodriguez recited the officer's oath to his daughter as she began her own journey with the Air Force.

"I was honored to perform the swearing ceremony for my daughter," Colonel Rodriguez said. "I can still remember when she was 16 years old and received the CMS-GT Cheryl T. Denson Memorial Foundation Scholarship. I was proud of her then and she is still making her mother and me proud today."

Lieutenant Rodriguez graduated as a registered nurse from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, in December 2010 and is presently attending commissioning officer training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. Following COT, she will attend a 10-week Air Force Nurse Training



Special to Warrior

Lt. Col. Rafael Rodriguez, 343rd Bomb Squadron B-52 radar navigator, enlists his daughter, 2nd Lt. Beverly S. Rodriguez, into the Air Force at the health recruiter's office in Arlington, Texas.

Program at Keesler AFB, Miss., before reporting to the 96th Inpatient Operations Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla., where she will be assigned as a registered nurse.



Maj. Jonathon Beavers, 11th Bomb Squadron radar navigator, prepares for a sortie in a B-52 Stratofortress on Barksdale. The radar navigator sits with the navigator downstairs on the B-52 and keeps in contact with the pilot throughout the flight.

11th, 93rd Bomb Squadrons soar together

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Alexandra M. Boutte



ABOVE: Capt. Robert Campbell, 11th Bomb Squadron navigator, reviews charts during a sortie from Barksdale. The navigator's main priority is to keep the aircrew on schedule.



LEFT: Capt. Nathan Mott and Maj. Joseph Babboni, B-52 Stratofortress pilots from Barksdale prepare the aircraft for a sortie.

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sat.02

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When: 3-6 p.m. Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport.
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tue.05

SESAME STREET LIVE "ELMO'S HEALTHY HEROES!"
When: 7 p.m. April 5-6; 10:30 a.m. April 6. CenturyTel Center, 2000 CenturyTel Center Drive, Bossier City.
Featuring: Elmo, Super Grover, Zoe, Abby Cadabby, Telly Monster and Zoe's pet rock, Rocco.
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wed.06

See: Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Healthy Heroes!," tue.05

thur.07

OPERA NIGHT
When: 6:30 p.m. The Tower at the Oaks, 600 E. Flourney Lucas Road, Shreveport.
Featuring: the cast of "Tosca," a production by the Shreveport Opera.
Admission: \$50.
Info: (318) 227-9503 or www.shreveportopera.org.

sat.09

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL PLANT SALE
When: 8 a.m.-noon Randle T. Moore Center, 3101 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport.
Featuring: a variety of plants including Abracadabra star hydrangeas, Purple Haze butterfly bush, Brandywine viburnum, Pink Turks Cap and dwarf Mexican petunias.
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2011 WALK MS
When: 8 a.m. Louisiana Boardwalk, 540 Boardwalk Blvd., Bossier City.
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Info: www.walkMSLouisiana.org.

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sun.10

TIM MCGRAW
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fri.15

YAZZY 2011
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sat.16

SPAR 2011 EASTER EGG HUNTS
When: 10 a.m.-noon Airport Park Community Center, 6500 Kennedy St., Shreveport.
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"BLOOD RUNS DEEP"
When: 1:30 p.m. Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, 3015 Greenwood Road, Shreveport.
Featuring: a gospel stage play by Rising Star Theatrical Productions.
Admission: \$10-\$12.
Info: (318) 990-8472 or www.risingstar.faithweb.com.

Briefly

BESG Spring Fling

The Barksdale Enlisted Spouses Club will hold its annual Spring Fling open house from 2 to 4 p.m. April 16 at the Landings at Barksdale office, 201 Langley Drive. Membership is open to spouses of active-duty enlisted members of all military branches, spouses of Air Force Reserve, spouses of retired enlisted, and civilians GS-8 and below. For more information, call Kate Pease at (318) 525-6680 or e-mail besgmembership@hotmail.com.

Spice, bath salt testing

Military drug testing laboratories now possess the capability to test urine specimens for synthetic cannabinoids as well as MDPV, mephedrone and other known chemicals commonly found in bath salts. Spice and products sold as "bath salts," in their many forms, are increasingly known to be very dangerous drugs. Airmen should be aware the ingestion of any substance, other than alcohol or tobacco, for the purpose of altering mood or function is a violation of AFI 44-121 and punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Barksdale Tax Center

The base tax center is available to e-file most federal and state tax returns free of charge. The tax center is staffed with IRS and Louisiana Department of Revenue trained personnel. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call at (318) 456-4765.

Safety, accident board president course

The Air Force Safety Center will conduct this course at Barksdale from April 19-21. The BPC qualifies O-5 and O-6 officers to lead safety and accident boards. The AF Safety Center will allow O-5 selects to attend. The course will train future AFI 91-204 Safety Investigation Board and AFI 51-503 Accident Investigation Board presidents regarding their duties and responsibilities for Class A aviation, space and missile mishaps. Instruction includes interim board procedures; SIB composition and duties; the safety privilege; mishap analysis; safety and accident investigation board procedures. Course includes contractor and technical expert support; lessons learned by safety center representatives and past board presidents. For more information, call DSN 781-5602.

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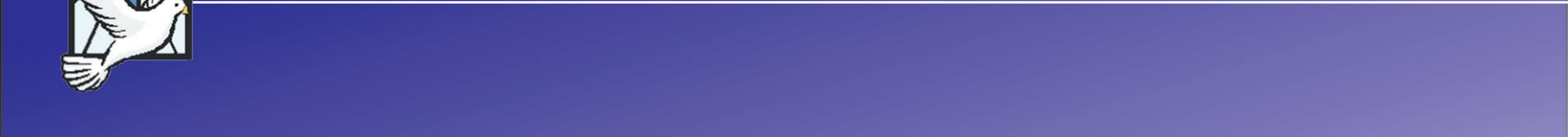
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