

# The Boomer

Vol. 53, No. 3

459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

March 2008

## Starlifter

### 459 AW families visit White House

**F**or the first time at Andrews Air Force Base, 459th Air Wing members and their families spent a day at the White House. Approximately 60 people participated in the Family Readiness Support Outing White House Garden Tour Oct. 1. The tour was high and it took the Air Force buses to transport and members and their families to downtown Washington, D.C. Attendance on the tour had an opportunity to ascend under a clear blue sky through many gardens, including the Children's Garden, a scenic former filled nation with past generations' children's handprints superimposed into the scene set in the pathway. The one special participation by the Chief of Staff, a report on the tour in the typical White House tour. A Marine Corps band was also on hand performing military marching music, and jazz tunes on the South Lawn. Senior Airman Stephen Loney, a Career Enhancement Officer personnel specialist here, attended the event. "The Children's Garden was especially for me. The scenery itself was great. I wish we could have seen more of the White House, but I understand why we couldn't for security reasons. I loved the tour, and hope to do again in the future," said Loney about his experience of the tour. The genesis of the spouse outing started as a idea brought up during a discussion among Reservists.

### Reservists respond to USS Cole tragedy

**M**embers of a Navy honor guard team carry the remains of an American sailor to a waiting hearse during a plane side ceremony Oct. 14 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Servicemen were called in the apparent terrorist attack on the USS Cole Oct. 12 in the port of Aden, Yemen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Stobbs)

**ROBINSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.**—In response to requests by the active force, Air Force Reserve command units provided airtank and port primary support in the first few days after the USS Cole tragedy. Members of C-141 crews from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., flew 13 airtankers to various locations and friends in Norfolk, Va., Oct. 15. Another 16 airtankers were seriously injured in the terrorist attack in the port of Aden, Yemen, Oct. 12 remained at the U.S. military hospital in Lumbank, Germany, for further observation. The reservists had just fulfilled a team of medical support in Taiwan when they were

## The Boomer

### Fuel to the fight

**MEMBERS OF A NAVY HONOR GUARD TEAM** carry the remains of an American sailor to a waiting hearse during a plane side ceremony Oct. 14 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Servicemen were called in the apparent terrorist attack on the USS Cole Oct. 12 in the port of Aden, Yemen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Stobbs)

**On Oct. 13 a Reserve C-17 air crew** from the 13th AFBW Wing, Charleston, S.C., flew the bodies of the 17 airmen killed in the attack on the Navy destroyer forward to Middle East to Reserve Air Base, Germany. The air crew was on temporary duty in Ramstein as part of the European Strategic Airlift Command operations when it got the request for assistance. The next day airtankers will send five airtankers to

## Starlifter

### Terrorists strike America

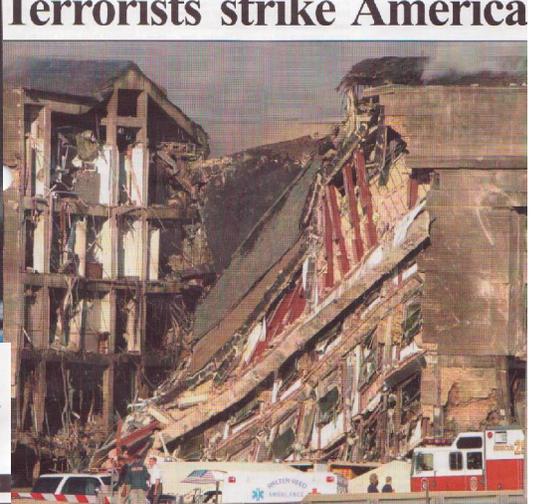


Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert Houlihan. See stories and photos inside.

## Starlifter

### Stratotankers arrive at 459th AW

**Official conversion ceremony Sept 27 at 11 a.m. in hangar 11 followed by a family picnic.**

**By Senior Sgt. Stephen Sweet**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

The 459th Air Wing will become the 459th Air Refueling Wing with operations training beginning officially Oct. 1. The first KC-135R Stratotanker arrivals from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., July 2 with the most recently followed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., July 7. The arrival of the KC-135R marks the beginning of a new era for the crew and members of the 459th Air Wing. The first crew members will be used to train reserve members by the 459th Maintenance Squadron and the 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron until the rest of the aircraft inventory arrives. Maintenance air reserve operations began training July 7. There will be a first training detachment from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to help the KC-135R inventory, delivery and flight systems, according to Chief Master Sgt. Robert Loney, 459th AW command sergeant major. "We'll have a really different crew now. It will be a whole new challenge. Flight engineers and maintenance specialists on the C-141 will have the opportunity to transfer to become better equipped to learn the new aircraft. The change in mission will provide more opportunities for extended deployments of our maintenance and operations which I believe will promote unit cohesiveness and camaraderie," said Sweet. The 459th Aeronautical Evaluation Squadron, currently providing in-flight conversion

## Starlifter

### A farewell reflection

**By Senior Sgt. Stephen Sweet**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

The 459th Air Wing will become the 459th Air Refueling Wing with operations training beginning officially Oct. 1. The first KC-135R Stratotanker arrivals from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., July 2 with the most recently followed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., July 7. The arrival of the KC-135R marks the beginning of a new era for the crew and members of the 459th Air Wing. The first crew members will be used to train reserve members by the 459th Maintenance Squadron and the 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron until the rest of the aircraft inventory arrives. Maintenance air reserve operations began training July 7. There will be a first training detachment from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to help the KC-135R inventory, delivery and flight systems, according to Chief Master Sgt. Robert Loney, 459th AW command sergeant major. "We'll have a really different crew now. It will be a whole new challenge. Flight engineers and maintenance specialists on the C-141 will have the opportunity to transfer to become better equipped to learn the new aircraft. The change in mission will provide more opportunities for extended deployments of our maintenance and operations which I believe will promote unit cohesiveness and camaraderie," said Sweet. The 459th Aeronautical Evaluation Squadron, currently providing in-flight conversion

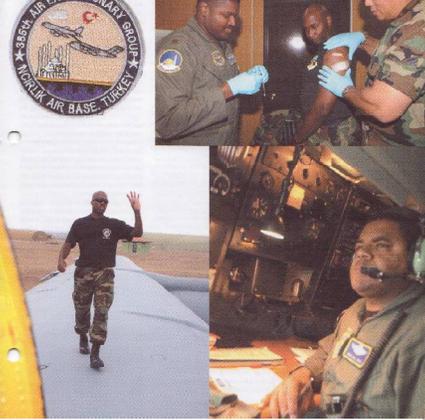
## The Boomer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Houlihan. See stories and photos inside.

## The Boomer

### First-ever AEF deployment



**Pages 3, 8-10 for C-141 stories**

**Pages 2, 4-5 for stories to veterans**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Houlihan. See stories and photos inside.

*What a history!*

## THE STAR

Serving members of the 459th Military Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve)

The Boomer's evolution, Pg. 4

# The Boomer

Vol. 53 No. 3

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Col. Stayce D. Harris

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## On the cover

**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. -- The collage highlights significant events affecting the wing, through various incarnations throughout the decades. The Boomer, or some equivalent publication, has been produced by the wing public affairs office here since at least 1964 and has reported about key events such as the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole, the flight of the last C-141 and the arrival of the first KC-135s. (Compiled by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell)**

## PERSPECTIVE/NEWS

# The Boomer enters new era

**By Col. Stayce Harris  
459th Air Refueling Wing commander**

A new era begins! As we transition, for Air Force Reserve Command cost saving measures, from a hard copy of *The Boomer* to an online version, we will continue to provide the same quality product that won us four AFRC awards this year.

**Command publication honorable mention (4th place) - *The Boomer***

**Category 07, photojournalism: first place - *Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell***

**Category 01, news article second place - *Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle***

**Stringer writer third place - *Senior Airman Jessica Andrews***

Congratulations, public affairs and to all wing members for providing the inspiration for the articles! It has always been my expectation that *The Boomer* be a publication "all about us" and we've succeeded.

It's your accomplishments that enabled us to richly earn the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award this year. Congratulations everyone!

Remember though, we can only tell your story if you communicate it to us. Fortunately, we have a fully-staffed PA team that will be continually reaching out to you for *your* stories to document in our online version. *The Boomer* can be viewed from your home computer at the Web site address <http://www.459arw.afrc.af.mil>.

A new era begins also as the new tanker announcement has been made and though it will be awhile before our first new jet comes to the Liberators; we are pleased this continues to be the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's number one priority acquisition. In the meantime, our aircrews are getting certified on Pacer Craig block 40 versions of our KC-135R aircraft and continue to fly demanding and life-saving missions around the world.

We bid a fond farewell to Col. Stephen Goeman, 459th Air Refueling Wing vice commander and senior ART. We wish him much continued success as his new era begins as 445th Airlift Wing commander.

The wing command chief and I recently attended the basic training graduation of one of our newest Airmen in the wing and witnessed a new era in their life beginning. The guest speaker expressed it the best. He said "we turn ordinary citizens into extraordinary Airmen." And after witnessing, "A day in the life" of a basic trainee, I firmly believe it is true.

So as you view the collage of photos of past wing newsletters, I'm sure you will see a little of yourself in them as they bring back memories. Take great pride in the contributions you've made and will continue to make in the future. You are all extraordinary Airmen and I challenge you to demonstrate it every day!



## Change of command

**Col. Winona Cason, 459th Mission Support Group commander, transfers flag and command of the 459th Security Forces Squadron from Maj. Jennifer Lawler to Capt. Mary A. Lloyd March 1, 2008. Master Sgt. Wil Serrano, 459th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, stands center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell)**

# Good news!

**CC:** Thanks to Col Sharon Thomas for leadership as AES commander. Great job and much success in your IMA assignment. Welcome home Master Sgt. Keith Loney and thank you for your outstanding job during your deployment!

Congratulations to the entire wing on winning the 2007 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award! Congratulations Col. Stephen Goeman on your selection as the next 445th Airlift Wing commander at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

**CV:** Thanks to everyone for their support and glad to have had the opportunity to work with the 459th ARW.

**SE:** Senior Master Sgt. Rudy Fiers represented our wing at a safety board investigating an accident involving a C-17 aircraft.

**PA:** Capt. Tim Smith has accepted a political appointment as the director of the D.C Office of Veterans Affairs. Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle completed seven level school at Fort George G. Meade, Md., with a 93 percent average.

**RS:** Tech. Sgt. Chris Galbraith has accepted a position as a National Regional Recruiter for the Postal Service.

**CP:** The unit is looking forward to 8044 exercise and having command and control in their refurbished facility.

**459th MSG:** The group had a successful mission to Portland to secure some needed assets.

**459th AMDS:** Thanks to Col. Art Nicholson for the excellent job coordinating with AD to secure needed medical treatment of AEF deployers who returned home with illnesses.

**459th SFS:** Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Cory Hoffman and family on the birth of their child and to Capt. William Metcalf and family who are expecting.

**459th SVF:** Nine members are deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del., and doing a good job.

**69th APS:** The last of the deployers have returned!

**459th MSF:** Way to go Staff Sgt. Papa Faal for receiving your second master's degree.

**459th OG:** Members deployed to the

Command Cell have returned. Thanks to Col. Russell Muncy and Col. Steve Goeman for getting folks paid.

**756 ARS:** Lt. Col. Stephen Mulich is the acting senior ART for the squadron. Also, Colonel Mulich and family are expecting their fourth child.

**459th MXG:** Col. David Post and other participated in the Annual Polar Bear Plunge. The group is also excited that higher headquarters has approved the hiring incentives for their hard to fill wage grade positions.

**459th AMXS:** Congratulations to Master Sgt. Joey Keyes on his recent promotion and welcome home from deployment.

**459th MXS:** Thanks to Master Sgt. Edward Hrabosky and Tech. Sgt. Richard Herdmann for participating in an AFSSO21 event with the KC-135 community.

**459th MOF:** Master Sgt. Bruce Green's two daughters were on the honor roll. Master Sgt. Felicia Mootry has been selected as the squadron's next first sergeant. Sergeant Green will retire in April.

## Travel pay changes on horizon

**By Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Wing Public Affairs**

New changes now implemented by Air Force Reserve Command aims to streamline travel pay for its members.

Reserve travel is now sent to Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., for processing and the 316th Airlift Wing Finance Management office will no longer process travel pay for the 459th Air Refueling Wing.

"The process will be a little more like myPay in that the member will be more involved in the process," said Tech. Sgt. Michele Boyd, 459th Air Refueling Wing Finance Management.

"Ellsworth AFB has brought in USAA as a consultant to benchmark processes."

The help desk at Ellsworth AFB is still in the

process of completion.

In the meantime, all travel must go through the member's command section, which in turn brings the vouchers and orders to the 459th FM office for further review.

Currently, the projected turn around time for travel once they receive it from the 316th is five business days. Ensure all orders are signed and certified before turning them in.

Questions or concerns about travel should be directed to the 316th FM, which serves as the point of contact until further notice. The office number is 301-981-3998 or e-mail them at 316cpts.customerservice@andrews.af.mil.

For more information, call 459th FM at 240-857-0314.

West Indian American  
Military Members  
Association  
hosts Spring Fling 2008  
in the Fox Den Lounge  
at The Club at Andrews  
April 19, 2008 from 7:30  
p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Tickets cost \$15.  
Valid photo ID  
required to enter base.  
Attendees must be 18  
years or older. POCs:  
Winfield St. Hill, 301-523-  
1787 or Pierre McLeod  
301-758-8273.

USAF AEROSPACE POWER FOR PEACE

**the CONGRESSIONAL WING**  
459th TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING

Vol. 18, No. 1 January 1973

**459th To Mark 18th Anniversary**

Although no elaborate ceremonies are scheduled to mark the occasion, the 459th Tactical Air Force Wing will celebrate its 18th continuous anniversary this month. On Jan. 20, 1955 the wing was first established at Andrews AFB, Md., and many landmarks have been passed along the way. Hoping that an added mark will be our soon expected C-141 carrier ready status.

The 459th Group, predecessor of the present unit, was born on May 19, 1947 and officially became a unit in the Army Air Force on July 1 of that year at Alamo Army Air Field, N. M. Equipped with B-24 Liberator bombers, the 459th moved to Italy and became a part of the 15th Air Force.

On April 23, 1944 the 459th Group was flying lead for the 304th Wing. The old flow through enemy interceptors and intense flak to aid air, airfield and aircraft as they landed at Bad Nauheim, Austria. It was the actions that day the 459th was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

During its service in Europe, one of its squadrons was the 754th, which a part of the 459th unit. It was with the 459th again from 1947 to 1949 during a period of activities with the Strategic Air Command and the 15th Air Force. The 459th Troop Carrier Group (TCG) was activated in 1955 as part of the Air Force Reserve.

By April 1973, the wing was composed entirely of reserve active duty personnel. This was the non-professional program was introduced, marking another significant step in the long range growth of the wing by having a continuous source of new reservists with reserve training.

**4 Designated To Hear Complaints**

Two officers and two APOs have been designated inspectors to hear complaints from members of the 459th Tactical Air Force Wing and the 909th Troop Carrier Group. Capt. Owen William J. Crandall, commander of the 459th, assigned the jobs to Maj. John Praeland and MSgt. William M. Keady of the 459th and to Lt. Col. Daniel Kretowski and Capt. William G. Keady of the 909th. Colonel Kretowski said there were no restrictions on the type of complaints that could be brought to the two inspectors at each point. They should generally identify and treatment to be given to the complainant. The complainant should be given a chance to be heard and to discuss it with someone who can do something about it.

Reservists assigned to the wing may discuss their complaints with Major Praeland.

**1973**

**THE CONGRESSIONAL WING**  
"READY NOW" 459th TROOP CARRIER WING  
Vol. X 1968 FEBRUARY 1968 No. 2

**459th CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY**



Members of the 459th Troop Carrier Wing and the 909th Troop Carrier Group celebrate the Wing's 10 years in the United States Air Force Reserve. The Wing, commanded by Col. Charles D. Briggs Jr., has grown from 222 members in 1957 to over 2200 today.

In celebration of the 459th Troop Carrier Wing's 10th anniversary, members of the 459th Troop Carrier Wing and the 909th Troop Carrier Group are invited to attend the celebration, which will be held in Hangar 10, Distinguished Visitors from the Washington, D.C. area have also been invited to attend.

**1965**

**CONGRESSIONAL WING**  
459th Tactical Air Force Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.  
Vol. 31, No. 384 March/April 1986



**1986**

C-141 flies over the Maritime Museum USS Constitution

**The Congressional Wing**  
459th Tactical Air Force Wing, Andrews AFB, MD  
December 1975 Vol. 20, No. 7

**459th To Gain Two New Groups**

Headquarters Air Force Reserve has announced that the 913th Tactical Air Group at Willow Grove Air Reserve Base, Pa., and the 927th Tactical Air Group at Selfridge Air National Base, Mich., will be reassigned to the 459th Tactical Air Force Wing. Both are currently assigned to the 15th Tactical Air Force Wing at Selfridge.

No specific dates for the change have been announced, but it is expected that the 913th TAW will move to the 459th on or about January 28th with the 927th assigned to it on or about May 1st.

In addition, the 459th Troop Carrier Wing, 15th Air Force Reserve, will move from its current location at Eastern Boston on January 1st.

The 913th TAW was activated in January 1964 and in December of that year, the unit gained operational control of the 15th Air Force Reserve Wing.

**In Memoriam**  
Maj. Gen. Alfred Senhust, 54, Commander of Eastern Air Force Reserve Troop Carrier Group, died Dec. 21st of a heart attack. General Senhust began his military career in 1942 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet program. His reserve affiliation began in 1962 when he joined the 909th Troop Carrier Group at Eastern Boston. Since May 1973, he has served as commander of Eastern Boston Troop Carrier Group.

**1975**

**The Star**  
459th Troop Carrier Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.  
Vol. 33, No. 7



**1987**



**Night Over Hanoi**



**1992**

USAF AEROSPACE POWER FOR PEACE

**THE CONGRESSIONAL WING**  
"READY NOW" 459th TROOP CARRIER WING  
Vol. XI MARCH 1966 No. 3

**GLOBEMASTERS TO REPLACE 'BOXCARS'**



Soon to be a familiar sight around the skies of Andrews AFB is the gigantic C-124 Globemaster. Measuring some 130 feet in length, with a 170-foot wing span, the Globemaster can operate at ceiling above 20,000 feet and fly under all weather conditions. The C-124 carries a five-man crew.

**MILITARY AIRLIFT WING TO BE NEW DESIGNATION; 25% PERSONNEL BOOST**

In an announcement released last month to Congress, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown revealed plans to redesignate the 459th Military Airlift Wing in July. In the fall of this year the 809th TCG, commanded by Col. James H. Lawrence, will be renamed the 909th Military Airlift Group and begin conversion from the C-119 to the larger C-124 Globemaster.

With a 50,000-pound payload aboard, the Globemaster can fly 2,300 miles non-stop, which is nearly three times the range of the C-119.

**SUMMER ENGAGEMENT DATES ANNOUNCED**

Summer engagement for Headquarters, 459th Troop Carrier Wing and 909th Troop Carrier Group personnel is scheduled for June 4 through 18 at Andrews Air Force Base. Now is the time to inform your employers and make all necessary arrangements. Procedures for excusal from annual engagement will be published in the near future. However, all obligated airmen are reminded that they will not be excused for reasons of job, school, or business conflicts. Furthermore, it is noted that with the summer engagement dates again to be performed in the near future, personnel in extraordinary circumstances will even be considered for warrant excusal.

ENGAGEMENT DATES - 4-18 JUNE 1966



**The Star**  
459th Troop Carrier Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.  
Vol. 38, No. 1 March 1993

**1993 Inaugural**

The Air Force Reserve element marching in the Clinton Inaugural Parade pulled approximately two-thirds of its members from the 459th Airlift Wing. Additional volunteers came from reserve units at Dover AFB, Del., McGuire AFB, N.J., and Willow Grove AFB, Pa., to round out the reserve marching contingent. Capt. Robert K. Amato, 754th Airlift Squadron intelligence officer, was marching unit commander. Col. Carol A. Bomar, 60th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander, was the senior reserve officer on the Air Force staff.

**Reservists March in Clinton Inaugural**

Air Force Reservists from four mid-Atlantic units joined forces in January to form the reserve marching contingent for the Air Force element of the Clinton-Gore Inaugural parade.

Under the scrutiny of CMSgt. Ed Miller, 459th Senior Technical Advisor, and the guidance of six tactical instructors from the Air Force Reserve's 809th Basic Military Training Squadron, the reservists in the parade were trained and drilled.

Joining 459th members were marchers from the 512th and 514th Airlift Wings (ASWs) at Dover and McGuire AFBs and the 913th Airlift Group, Willow Grove AFB, Pa. Once transportation and billing hurdles were cleared, the reservists gathered in the 60th AFS area for "refresher training" in close order drill. The Tuesday drill run apparently paid off nicely - the reservists were cited as some of the best marchers in the parade.

**Through the years**

By Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Wing Public Affairs

The earliest archive of a printed publication by the wing public affairs office here is a 1964 paper called the The Congressional Wing, developed for members of the 459th Troop Carrier Wing. But the 459th has a long, rich history that predates even those early issues. The 459th Bombardment Group supported World War II and was allotted to the Air Force Reserve on April 19, 1947. The unit was permanently ordered to active duty in 1955. Although newsletters may have been printed between 1955 and 1964, the first official paper for the wing was the The Congressional Wing. Later names included The Congressional Wing Star, The Star, the Starlifter and finally The Boomer.

# Keep perceptions from becoming reality

**By 1st Lt. LaVonne Johnson**  
**459th Military Equal Opportunity Office**

A rose appears to be beautiful and healthy until it starts to show signs of sickness. By looking at the rose, we may guess at the cause of the sickness. "It's sick because it's not getting enough water, sunlight, or nutrients." Well, which is it? How do we determine the true cause? Examine the root.

On the surface, a situation may appear to be discriminatory based on race, color, national origin, religion or sex. But after further examination, discrimination might not be the case at all. So, how can we, as individuals or managers help prevent perceptions that are not reality?

The prevention tool at the top of my list is open, honest, and effective communication which is the only way we can get to the root of a problem. Individuals and managers need to talk to each other about work performance, interests, and other issues of concern because what is not said can be more harmful than what is said. For example, a supervisor never told the subordinate that the subordinate's performance was deficient. When the subordinate was up for promotion, the supervisor denied it. The subordinate had no clue as to why and assumed it was because of discriminatory reasons. In this example, the false perception could have been avoided with open, honest and effective communication.

In processing discrimination cases, I've discovered that the false perceptions of discrimination could have been avoided or mitigated if open, honest, and effective communication took place. So, why don't we communicate? Do we fear the outcome of these conver-

sations? Do we think the issues will simply fade away? I do know one thing and that is issues do not disappear. They get worse or reappear in another form – a complaint with the Military Equal Opportunity office.

All of us need to do our part to prevent false perceptions. Here are specifics to ponder. As individuals, comply with policies, examine your own actions for subtle behaviors, confront the offensive behavior or issue at the time it occurs, and seek help if needed sooner than later. As managers, examine your action for subtle behaviors that could be viewed as double standards, set the standard, address all discriminatory behaviors, and reinforce the equal opportunity policy.

I want to encourage each of you to do what it takes to make things better for yourself, for your peers, for leadership, and for the Air Force mission. If you believe discriminatory practices or sexual harassment is taking place, please consult with MEO. I also encourage you to examine your perceptions with open communication with those involved.

As an advocate for positive and productive working relationships, I want to also encourage each of you to look at this day as a new day for a new beginning. I end with this poem by an unknown author called The Essence of a New Day.

"This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind ... Let it be something good."

## *Exec gains Wingman insight from wildlife rescue*

**By Lt. Col. Michael Laughton**  
**459th Air Refueling Wing**

I was stationed at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, Fla., in the 1990s as an executive officer for the 832nd RED HORSE Squadron.

One day, I'm sitting at my desk, plowing through paperwork, awards, and general correspondence, when a non-commissioned officer appeared and said, "Sir, I found something and I need your help."

I'm thinking it's someone's wallet or a piece of jewelry as I inquired what it was.

"This, sir", as he moves his hand out from behind him and places a 7-inch tall live Screech Owl in my in-box. I stare at the owl and it stares right back at me.

I collect my thoughts, "Where'd you find it?"

"It was by the side of the road and didn't fly away as I ran past," the NCO said. "I thought maybe you could help."

I told him I'd see what I could do.

So now it's me and this owl in my office,

still staring at each other. The owl isn't moving and it isn't trying to escape. There must be something wrong with it.

I call the base veterinarian. I dial the number, someone answers and I say, "Hello someone just handed me a live owl."

The person on the other end responds, "It's illegal to have an owl. They're a protected species."

I tell them I want to find someone to take it off my hands. "Well, we don't take in wild animals. Try the Humane Society."

I call the Humane Society. I start out, "Some Airman just gave me a live owl." The person interrupts, "It's illegal to have an owl ... they're a protected species."

I tell them I think it's injured and I'm trying to find someone who can help."

"We don't take in wild animals. Try the zoo."

I call the zoo. I dial the number. "Some Airman just handed me a live owl."

The person on the other end responds,

"It's illegal to have an owl; they're a protected species."

"I know but it's injured and I want to find someone to take it off my hands."

They tell me to take it to the wildlife rehabilitation center two hours away.

A lady at the wildlife center comes out, picks up the owl and examines it. According to her, it has a broken wing which might or might not heal. Still she took the owl in, free of charge.

Are there lessons learned here? Several. First, we're stewards of more than just our country and our freedoms. We're stewards of this planet. Second, our attitude towards big things is reflected in our attitude towards little things. I can no more ignore an injured animal than I would an Airman with a request. Third, trust your gut. Not everything is covered in the regulations.

Do what feels right. I don't know if that owl survived or not, but I sleep pretty good at night knowing I did my best to help it.

# Roger that! Air Force Reservist snags coveted Tops In Blue 'Golden Roger' lifetime achievement award

**Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Wing Public Affairs**

The list of winners over the years in the Air Force Tops In Blue Golden Roger award history would be a lot larger if talent were the only prerequisite.

But his peers and prior award recipients on the judge's panel agree that Master Sgt. Derrick Wright, 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron training manager, earned the December 2007 nod in the program's 56-year history for being a true inspiration to so many other talents.

In addition to proving himself a worthy showman on tour with TIB years ago, Sergeant Wright set his sights on building a legacy of strong talent by helping to developing a TIB workshop here. Team Andrews boasts an uncommonly high percentage of people selected to attend the AF World Wide Talent Contest at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. As an Alpha team leader on the AF Entertainment staff for 11 years, Sergeant Wright was selected specifically to develop talent for the tour. The Golden Roger is a lifetime achievement award, the highest an individual can receive.

"We're looking for those diamonds in the rough," Sergeant Wright said.

"We have 10 days to get to know the contestants, gain their confidence, recognize their strengths and weaknesses and improve upon both. We evaluate their potential to see if they have what it takes to be consid-

ered for the Tops In Blue tour."

TIB is a significant aspect of Air Force history. What began as an Air Force talent contest in 1953 evolved into the winners forming an eclectic musical revue complete with dancers, singers, musicians and stagehands. These musical ambassadors have entertained audiences around the world at virtually every Air Force base, even in the area of responsibility.

If a year of touring isn't taxing enough, troupe members must get immersed in every aspect of Tops In Blue: dancing, singing and even staging.

"Staging is one of the toughest things you'll ever have to do," Sergeant Wright said. "Your day starts at about 4 a.m. with (physical training), and long before and after the show, the entire stage needs to be set up and broken down."

The rigorous 12-14 hour days seven days a week of training, rehearsing, staging and, of course, singing, means TIB performers have very different experiences than the conventional "rock stars on the road." But Sergeant Wright avers that both the Team Andrews's workshop and TIB are dedicated much more to building self-esteem and creating outstanding Airmen.

"Since there is no replacement for a TIB member at their home station, we make sure we send them back to their shops as dynamos," Sergeant Wright said. "Most everyone selected for TIB has the confidence, motivation and productivity of three



**Master Sgt. Derrick Wright, 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron training manager, holds up his Golden Roger award in the public affairs office Jan. 20.**

people when they get back to work."

Senior Airman Amber Peterson, 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron services journeyman, said though she wasn't ultimately selected for TIB, the journey to final auditions at Lackland AFB was enriching and intense.

"I took the Team Andrews workshop -Sergeant Wright was tough when he needed to be and kinder other times," she said with a smile. "It was interesting to see older video tapes of ourselves and the transfor-

mation that took place over the weeks."

Lt. Col. Margaret Schmidt, 459th AES deputy chief of administrative operations, said she "nudged" Sergeant Wright to talk about his involvement with TIB.

"Sergeant Wright is a humble man who was reluctant to talk about this award," Colonel Schmidt said. "But it's so important for him to share his talent and inspire others to pursue or develop theirs."

For more information about Tops In Blue, or the workshop here, e-mail Sergeant Wright at [derrick.wright@andrews.af.mil](mailto:derrick.wright@andrews.af.mil) or visit [www.topsinblue.com](http://www.topsinblue.com). Active Duty Air Force Reservists and Air National Guard are eligible.

**“ Since there is no replacement for a TIB member at their home station, we make sure we send them back to their shops as dynamos. ”**

## Promotions



**Chief Master Sgt**  
Keith Cockey

**Senior Master Sgt**  
Ruth Davis

**Master Sgt**  
Timothy Nolte

**Tech Sgt**  
Jamyra Alexander-Jordan  
Lisa Arsenault-Nepa  
Seneare Castillo

**Staff Sergeant**  
Alexander Gray  
Latonya Harper  
Brian You

**Airman 1st Class**  
Patrice Deveaux  
Marc Rowe

**Airman**  
Christina Rather



## Community Briefs

### Christmas in April seeks help

The 459th ARW seeks skilled and unskilled for light handy work April 26. The wing has signed up to sponsor two local area homes in need of repair.

The program is designed to assist low-income homeowners, the elderly and disabled, and families with children to live in warmth, safety and independence.

Family members age 15 or older are welcome to come help. For details, sign up with unit first sergeants or call Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman at DSN 857-2934.

### First sergeants wanted

There are currently two first sergeant vacancies, one each in the 459th Security Forces Squadron, and the 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Candidates must be an E-7 or immediately eligible for promotion to E-7, and should be outstanding and willing to exceed the standard.

Applicants must submit a statement explaining why they want to be a first shirt, and all packages must include a recommendation letter from their squadron commander, up to two additional letters of recommendation. Applicants must also produce their current fit to fight score and both their civilian and military career résumé (separate or combined).

Applications are due to the military personnel flight by March 28. For details, call Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman at 240-857-2934.



### Change of command

*Col. Russell Muncy, 459th Operations Group commander, transfers flag and command of the 459th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, to Lt. Col. Vanessa Mattox during a ceremony here March 1. Col. Sharon Thomas relinquished command of the squadron. Master Sgt. Patty Guzman-Evans, 459th AES first sergeant, stands center. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle)*



**Better recognize!**

**BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON, D. C.**  
-- Chief Master Sgt. Stevie Gray, 459th Logistics Readiness Flight, and Chief Master Sgt. Linda Powe, 459th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, pose with Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, 459th Air Refueling Wing command chief, at the National Capital Region Chief's Recognition Ceremony Feb. 16. (Courtesy photo)

## FY 2008 UTA

April 5-6, Alt 19-20  
May 3-4, Alt 17-18  
June 7-8, Alt 21-22  
July 12-13, Alt 19-20  
Aug 2-3, Alt 16-17  
Sept 6-7, Alt 20-21

# Annual winners recognized at banquet

By Staff Sgt. Amaani Lyle  
Wing Public Affairs

Civilians, ARTs and Reservists converged at the Andrews Community Activity Center here Feb. 2 to honor the “best of the best” at the Third Annual 459th Air Refueling Wing banquet.

The First Sergeant’s Council, the Banquet Committee and the 756th Squadron Association joined forces to help ensure the evening would measure up to and surpass the quality wing members have grown to expect from previous years.

The 756th Squadron Association president Norm Larson continued the tradition of offering complimentary first-year membership and charity matching of cash prizes offered by Andrews Federal Credit Union and other Team Andrews partners.

Several of the awards were named specifically after people who significantly and positively impacted their respective fields.

The Charles Woodward Award, First Sergeant Award for Excellence, signifies “excellent performance of Air Force-related functions and ethical standards that demonstrate leadership abilities.”

The Rudy Rodriguez Award, Company Grade Officer Award for Excellence, denotes the ability to “consistently motivate subordinates through willingness to lead by example” among other traits.

The Paul R. Julian Jr. Award, Excellence in Aviation, highlights those who display “superior Airmanship skills and knowledge, and possess the immense respect of supervisors, peers and fellow aviators.”

A committee of wing members selected winners based on three categories: Leadership and Performance in Primary Duty, Significant Self Improvement, and Base or Community Involvement. The winners are: Airman: Senior Airman Dan McEvily; NCO: Tech. Sgt. Derrick Freeman; SNCO: Master Sgt. Steven Bedell; CGO: Capt. Albert Olagbemi; First sergeant: Master Sgt. Clif Schindler; Civilian, category I: Carla Liller; ART, category I: Capt. Katrina Wiggins; Team: 459th Operations Support Flight; Aviator Crew: 756th Air Refueling Squadron.



Senior Airman Dan McEvily  
Airman



Tech. Sgt. Derrick Freeman  
NCO



Master Sgt. Stephen Bedell  
SNCO



Capt. Albert Olagbemi  
CGO



Master Sgt. Clif Schindler  
First sergeant



Capt. Katrina Wiggins  
ART



459th Operations  
Support Flight  
Team



Carla Liller  
Civilian, Cat I



756th Air Refueling  
Squadron  
Aviator Team



The Boomer is published for family members like two-year-old Emily Sharmán, niece of Tech. Sgt. Eric Sharmán, 459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office.

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