



# 944th Fighter Wing

# Monthly SnapShot

[www.944fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.944fw.afrc.af.mil)

April 2013

## 944 FW KEY LEADERS

### **Commander**

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

### **Vice Commander**

Col. Chris Yancy

### **Command Chief**

CMSgt Thomas Brandhuber

## Mission

**Provide combat-ready  
Citizen Airmen in support  
of our national objectives.**

## UTA Schedule

Apr. 6-7, 2013

May 4-5, 2013

Jun. 1-2, 2013

Jul. 13-14, 2013

Aug. 3-4, 2013

Sept. 7-8, 2013

## **944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot:**

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The SnapShot wants to highlight you and/or your unit. If you would like to submit an idea, article, or photo for the SnapShot, please e-mail [944fw.pa@luke.af.mil](mailto:944fw.pa@luke.af.mil) or call 623-856-5388.

## **Sequestration, TA, TRICARE**

*By Colonel Kurt J. Gallegos, 944th Fighter Wing Commander*

It's been a busy month since our last Unit Training Assembly; I'm not quite sure where the time went. If you have been watching the news recently you know there have been a lot of changes and challenges for our Air Force and Wing. Sequestration has been at the forefront of our planning this month. I know there are always rumors and I want to assure everyone that at this time we do have funding for our UTAs and Annual Tours for the rest of the Fiscal Year. We do not have a lot of money on the books so Mandays and RPA days may be cut. However, we will do everything in our power to ensure we manage our limited funds wisely so we can take care of our people and get our mission done.

I held a civilian commanders call on March 20 to discuss upcoming furloughs affecting our civilian and Air Reserve Technicians. I know furloughs won't affect many of our Traditional Reservists but we do need to be sensitive to those who it will affect. Two important things for you to know, first, there may be decreases in furlough days from 22 to 14 days. Pentagon officials are analyzing how pending legislation that will fund the federal government for the rest of the fiscal year will affect the furloughs. Once our leaders make a decision we'll get the guidance out to everyone.

Secondly, I want to let you know what the impact furloughs will have on our Wing. I have designated specific days as "down days" when the majority of our civilian and ART members will be taking their furlough. On these days you can expect little to no services available. So please plan accordingly. Most of the "down days" will be on Fridays and Mondays but the calendar with the complete list can be found on our SharePoint at [https://afrc.eim.us.af.mil/sites/10th\\_AF/944FW/SitePages/Home.aspx](https://afrc.eim.us.af.mil/sites/10th_AF/944FW/SitePages/Home.aspx).

Another big change due to the sequestration is the cancellation of Tuition Assistance. This may change again soon but as of now we have not received any direction other than to stop all TA. If you are currently enrolled in school and your TA application was submitted by March 11, 2013 your TA will still be paid. Our education office has worked very hard to put together a list of alternative education funding options so please stop by or call our education office.

Not related to the sequestration but a change none the less for us here in Arizona is that TriWest has changed to UnitedHealthcare. This will affect anyone currently enrolled in TRICARE. There is an article on page 4 of the SnapShot that will address questions you may have.

TRICARE has also opened their healthcare programs to all Air Force Reserve retirees - including "gray-area retirees" and actively-participating Air Force reservists, no matter what orders they are on. This means Reservists who retire before age 60 are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve. Additionally, if a Reservist needs healthcare insurance and they are between active-duty orders they and their family can enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select. More information on the programs can be found on page 5 of the SnapShot.

I know we are facing a lot of changes and they will affect each of us differently. I truly appreciate your flexibility and understanding. -People First: Mission Always

## **Welcome Home!!**

**MSgt Matthew Gates from the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron  
returned home from Southwest Asia**

**TSgt Brett Bennett from the 944th Civil Engineer Squadron  
returned home from Southwest Asia**



# Perspective is a good skill to have

By Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Brandhuber, 944th Fighter Wing Command Chief

Well whose bracket had the correct teams in the final four?

These are interesting times to be serving in the Air Force Reserves. As the Sequester unfolds and changes there seems to be more and more programs and opportunities affected. The affects can range from loss of pay for our Civilians and Air Reserve Technicians, loss of tuition assistance, and loss of opportunities for courses. Even with these changes/challenges we will press forward and keep performing at the high level we always do. Mandatory and or expected results will not change regardless of the Sequester. Any time there are these types of challenges or difficulty with your civilian job or in your personal life or with family, perspective is a good skill to have.

Perspective, as defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is defined as “the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance”. I am just as guilty as any one of getting frustrated and feeling sorry for myself or being angry at the “system”. I sometimes need a lesson in perspective and fortunately for me I recently was able to recharge my perspective bucket through two events in one day.

First, two weeks ago I was able to interact with the graduating class of the Non Commissioned Officers Leadership and Development course. It was a full class consisting of all 944th Fighter Wing personnel. Listening and talking with the class during to their group presentations reinforced that regardless of these trying times over 20 of our people gave up two weeks of their time to attend this course, and performed exceptionally well. That same day I was fortunate enough to attend a dinner for the Air Force Association where a former member of our wing, retired Tech Sgt. Matthew Slaydon, was the guest speaker. TSgt Slaydon was medically retired from the Air Force after receiving grave injuries on his third deployment to Iraq serving as an explosive ordnance disposal technician. He was a 944th EOD member before going back on active-duty with the 56th Fighter Wing when he was injured. Listening to him speak and observing him and his wife, Annette’s, positive attitude was truly inspiring. It made me feel silly about the issues I thought were hurdles. When you have someone who lost an arm, his vision, and his opportunity to perform his dream job serving as an EOD technician, but still has such a positive inspiring attitude it truly makes you stop and think.

I challenge you to find and keep your perspective, yes times are hard but someone somewhere always has more obstacles. Keep pushing yourself in all aspects of your personal, civilian career and military career. Don’t allow challenging times to be used as an excuse for why you didn’t perform to the level necessary.

I truly appreciate the sacrifice that you and your families make in being a reservist. Keep our deployed member is your thoughts and prayers. See you around the wing. “Go Irish”

## Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 April 2013:

- Amn Joshua P. Knight to the rank of Airman First Class, 414th Maintenance Squadron
- A1C Maresa K. Bridges to the rank of Senior Airman, 414th Maintenance Squadron
- A1C Helen N. Diaz to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Force Support Squadron
- A1C Joseph R. Contreras to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- A1C Krystal Gutierrez to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
- A1C Manuel R. Bravo to the rank of Senior Airman, 924th Maintenance Squadron
- A1C German Palma to the rank of Senior Airman, 944th Force Support Squadron
- SSgt Tanya L. Keisler to the rank of Technical Sergeant, 924th Maintenance Squadron
- TSgt Eric Jagodzinski to the rank of Master Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
- TSgt David W. Powell to the rank of Master Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
- TSgt Camille L. Benton to the rank of Master Sergeant, 944th Force Support Squadron



## Announcing our Major Selects

- Capt Angela Fountain, 944th Medical Squadron**
- Capt Michael Haag, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron**
- Capt Daniel Harper, 307th Fighter Squadron**
- Capt Daniel Nuqui, 926th Security Forces Squadron**
- Capt Erica Lowe, 924th Maintenance Squadron**
- Capt Alan Mirly, 944th Medical Squadron**

## BE THE NEXT SALSA CHAMPION!

Calling all salsa chefs!! The Rising Six is looking for “The Best Salsa in the Wing! Does your salsa deserve this title? For a chance to prove it, submit your information to SSgt Teresa Killeen by the end of the April UTA on Sunday.





## Jackson outlines Reserve priorities during House caucus

By Staff Sgt. Katie Spencer, 459th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Service chiefs from the Reserve and Guard components met with members of House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus on Capitol Hill, March 14.

Leaders from each branch of service spoke about their top three priorities at the caucus-sponsored breakfast. Lt. Gen. James Jackson, the chief of Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, said the mission, manpower and modernization are the top three priorities for the Air Force Reserve.

Jackson opened up his priority list by mentioning the lack of funding for the 14,000 Department of Defense civilians the AF Reserve has on staff; nearly 10,000 of whom are dual-status Air Reserve Technicians serving in a civilian capacity when not in military status. The ARTs are essential to the everyday mission of the AF Reserve and they work to make sure the planes get in the air and the missions are successful, he said.

“The underlying principles are to remain a combat-ready, cost-effective, experienced force,” he added. “We are that now, and we want to continue to be that.”

Jackson spoke on retaining Airmen as part of his manpower priority.

“We need to be able to retain experienced Airmen for life,” he said. “We have civilian skill sets and also capture the active duty skill

sets. If we can retain that manpower and the ability to utilize it [manpower] as an operational ready-Reserve, than that is a benefit to the nation.”

The last of the top three priorities for the AF Reserve was modernization.

While Jackson touched on a number of modernization issues, he focused on the use of the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account funds. NGREA is procurement funding provided by Congress directly to all reserve components to fill shortfalls in equipment provided by the services.

“We are spending money right now on the defense of large aircraft, on targeting pods and all pieces of equipment that we need for our Air Force,” he said. “And the bottom line is all of that can be paid through the NGREA funds and help the total force and the nation.”

According to a position paper from the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year-2012 authorized the appropriations of \$1 billion for Guard and Reserve equipment. Without the appropriation, the Reserve Component would have only received \$325 million in the Defense Authorization bill.

“I think it is extremely important to have the leaders from Congress, the Reserve components and strategic partners here to put together a game plan and a way forward in



particularly as we go through this time of sequestration and a continuing resolution,” he said.

The NGRCC convenes annually to ensure the National Guard and Reserve components are resourced and have inputs on policy and force structure within the Department of Defense.

“There is no venue, with the exception of the caucus breakfast, where you have the heads of the Guard and Reserve forces in one location, laying out in clear terms what it is that their services need to maintain readiness,” said Rep. Duncan Hunter, (R-Calif.), co-chair of the NGRCC. “Given the budgetary issues facing our defense community, this is the best kind of meeting that helps Congress make sound decisions that support our men and women serving in harm’s way.”

## AF to implement force structure changes

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force released its plan Mar. 28 to implement force structure changes mandated by the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act.

The bill authorized the service to complete actions approved in previous years, such as aircraft retirements, and directed execution of Congressionally-approved force structure actions.

Some of these changes were outlined in the Air Force’s Total Force Proposal, developed in coordination with the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Others were congressionally-directed.

“Our Air Force continues efforts to maximize the strength of our Total Force, and we are pleased with the progress that is being made on this front,” said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. “This implementation plan illustrates the Air Force’s continued commitment to transparency as it completes the force structure requirements directed and authorized by the NDAA.”

The NDAA directs a reduction of 65 aircraft and approximately 1,400 military billets from the Air National Guard, 57 aircraft from the Air Force Reserve, and 122 aircraft and approximately 6,100 military billets from the active-duty Air Force.

“Working together we can combine the personnel, equipment and readiness necessary to build a total Air Force equal to all the challenges our nation faces,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley (Sid) E. Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard.

The Air Force’s implementation plan includes a state-by-state

description of changes for each base and the associated timeline. Each major command developed activation, reassignment, re-missioning or divesture options.

“We’ve developed guiding principles to ensure that as we make decisions, we continue to have a strong foundation for what is best for our Air Force,” said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, chief, Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command. “We must leverage regular and reserve component strengths and align our decisions with a commitment as one total force team.”

Key principles include: ensure personnel readiness, training and retention for transitioning units to remain at the highest level practicable and minimize mission gaps for units transitioning to new or different missions. Each of the components embraces these principles.

“Our active, Reserve and Guard components are increasingly integrated --training, deploying and conducting a full range of missions together as one Air Force,” said Donley, “and we’re committed to ensuring that our active and reserve component mix correctly balances the strengths of each component, meeting our strategic requirements and our fiscal demands as well. The FY13 implementation plan gets us on a path toward that end.”

Find the full text of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act Implementation Plan at <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130328-035.pdf>.



# TriWest Transitioning To UnitedHealthcare

## 944th Force Support Squadron

On 1 April 2013, military health insurance will switch from TriWest to UnitedHealthcare. If you do not use TriCare and/or are not planning to, this will have no effect on you. For those who currently use TriCare via TriCare Prime (30 day orders, pre-deployment, or deployment) including Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP—post-deployment), TriCare Reserve Select, or TriCare Standard, see the below frequently asked questions and answers:

### 1. Can I continue to pay my premiums with automatic payments?

Yes. If you currently pay your monthly TriCare fees or premiums using automatic payments, you must provide authorization to UnitedHealthcare (i.e., re-accomplish the authorization forms) to continue to make these payments via electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account or recurring debit/credit card payments. The Automatic Payment Authorization form can be found at [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com).

### 2. Are my premiums changing?

No. Premiums will not be affected by the transition.

### 3. TriCare required me and my dependents to be enrolled in DEERS. Does UnitedHealthcare as well?

Yes. You are still required to ensure your DEERS information is accurate and up-to-date. Not having the correct information in DEERS can cause disruption in coverage for yourself or your family members. As long as this information along with the payment information is up to date there should be no further action required on the member's part.

### 4. Will UnitedHealthcare allow my current TriCare authorizations?

Yes. UnitedHealthcare will honor all outstanding prior authorizations by TriWest Healthcare Alliance through May 30th, 2013. In addition, UnitedHealthcare will honor all Global Maternity Authorizations from pregnancy through delivery as authorized by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

### 5. Will I have to change my Primary Care Manager (PCM)?

Possibly. UnitedHealthcare is actively working with providers to make the transition from TriWest, however, whether your PCM makes the transition is at his/her own discretion. It is possible that you may have to change PCM if your current provider does not choose to accept UnitedHealthcare. A printable directory of current Primary Care Managers is now available on this site. View current PCMs now.

### 6. Are there any additional benefits as part of the transition?

Yes. UnitedHealthcare will provide new offerings under your TRICARE benefit to improve your access to quality providers with greater availability of appointments. These en-

hancements include:

□ **Convenience Care Clinics:** These clinics are based out of large national retail stores and pharmacies. UnitedHealthcare has contracted with the clinics to provide a convenient, low-cost alternative for beneficiaries (18 months or older) to access a specific, limited range of basic health services such as care for sprains, seasonal allergies, sore throats, sinus infections, urinary tract infections, and pink eye. No appointments are necessary; however, if you are a TRICARE Prime beneficiary, a prior authorization from your PCM or the regional contractor is required to avoid additional costs.

□ **Urgent Care Centers:** These centers will enhance access and appointment availability and help reduce the high costs of emergency room services. No appointments are necessary; however, if you are a TRICARE Prime beneficiary, a prior authorization from your PCM or the regional contractor is required to avoid additional costs.

□ **UnitedHealth Premium® Program Network:** The UnitedHealth Premium Program network provides TRICARE beneficiaries' access to the highest quality providers. Not only does the network offer a great choice of providers, but it also recognizes network specialty and primary care physicians who meet national standards for quality and performance. The UnitedHealth Premium Program network promotes patient safety and quality of care through innovative clinical outreach programs for providers who demonstrate consistent use of best-practice standards. By providing more factors to evaluate our network providers, the UnitedHealth Premium Program network gives you the tools to make more informed decisions about where to receive health care services.

□ **Centers of Excellence:** Centers of Excellence (COE) networks identify and qualify programs specializing in bariatric, cancer, neonatal, congenital heart, and transplant services, and one outpatient program in kidney services. The COEs are evaluated and monitored through UnitedHealthcare's Clinical Sciences Institute, based on adherence to the highest level of national quality standards. The Clinical Sciences Institute selects network programs that demonstrate safe and successful support of complex, specialized procedures. COE access is available under all relevant TRICARE requirements (e.g., access-to-care standards, referral requirements).

□ **Telemedicine:** UnitedHealthcare strives to identify opportunities to provide greater choice for beneficiaries in rural areas by supporting existing TRICARE telemental and telehealth network capabilities and by broadening the scope of options available. For example, UnitedHealth Group's rural telemedicine initiatives connect network specialists to remote locations. The actual health care sites will con-

nect patients to remote specialists who can give virtual medical exams using high-resolution video and network-enabled medical devices (e.g., stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors). UnitedHealthcare will also seek to identify and use effective local or national resources to support a network of telemental health care sites for beneficiaries, and networks of off-site providers who can evaluate, treat, and refer them as necessary via video.

### 7. Why am I only now hearing about this?

If you are a current TriCare beneficiary, you should have received a welcome packet in the mail; if not contact our local UnitedHealthcare representative, Linda Lewis at 623-299-4330.

### 8. What if I'm not using TriCare? Can I still enroll?

Yes. If you are not currently using TriCare but wish to enroll, UnitedHealthcare can assist with new enrollments or changes to enrollments (effective April 1, 2013 and later) and answer questions about the transition and any transition-related correspondence. Contact the local UnitedHealthcare representative, Linda Lewis at 623-299-4330 for assistance.

### 9. What about customer service during the transition? Who can I call?

During the transition, TriWest and UnitedHealthcare will share the customer service responsibility: 1-877-988-WEST (1-877-988-9378). You can also find more information on the internet at [www.uhcmilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com).

For other general customer assistance (including authorizations, referrals, claims, benefits, and eligibility) with dates of service up to March 31, 2013, please contact TriWest at 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378).

On April 1, 2013, the transition will be complete and UnitedHealthcare's customer service will answer your health care questions over the phone, online and in person at UnitedHealthcare Service Centers. Additionally, all TriCare Service Centers in the West region will be converted to UnitedHealthcare Service Center to maintain continuity of service.

### 10. How will I be able to access my enrollment status?

On April 1st, 2013, you and your eligible family members will use the Department of Defense Self Service (DS) Logon Service to access the secure, self-service capabilities of this portal. Visit the My Access Center web page (<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement>) for more information.

### 11. Where can I find more information about the transition?

Additional information about the TriWest to UnitedHealthcare transition can be found at <http://www.tricare.mil/Welcom/MediaCenter/CurrentTopics/WestTransition.aspx> and you can also look at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page for more detailed information.





# Air Force reservists and retirees eligible for TRICARE

By Col. Bob Thompson, Air Force Reserve Public Affairs

TRICARE has affordable healthcare programs available for all Air Force Reserve retirees - including "gray-area retirees" and actively-participating Air Force reservists, no matter what orders they are on.

Reservists who retire before age 60 are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage while they are in the "gray area." This is the waiting period between retiring from active service and collecting their Air Force Reserve retirement pay at age 60.

While on active-duty orders for more than 30 days, all reservists are covered by TRICARE Prime. However, reservists could find themselves without healthcare insurance when they are in between active-duty orders. To ensure coverage for themselves and their families, reservists can enroll in TRICARE

Reserve Select. Both TRICARE Reserve Select and TRI-



**T R I C A R E**

CARE Retired Reserve provide comprehensive health coverage including: emergency care; outpatient visits, hospitalization, maternity care, mental/behavioral health care, prescriptions and preventive care such as wellness exams and immunizations.

Currently, the monthly premiums for TRICARE Reserve Select are: \$51.62 for the

reservist only and \$195.81 for reservists and their families.

The monthly premiums for TRICARE Retired Reserve are: \$402.11 for the retired reservist only and \$969.10 for the retirees and their families.

At age 60, TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage ends and retirees are eligible for additional coverage through TRICARE Prime, Standard, or Extra. Currently, the yearly premiums for TRICARE Prime are: \$269.28 for the individual plan, and \$538.56 for the family package.

At age 65, all Americans come under Medicare coverage. Also, Medicare health insurance covers people under 65 with certain disabilities.

To find out more or to enroll in TRICARE's programs for reservists, go to: [www.tricare.mil/trs](http://www.tricare.mil/trs).

## Thrift Savings Plan: Traditional or Roth, bottom line is saving when it matters most

With the current military retirement system, Airmen must serve in the military for 20 years before reaping retirement benefits, unless they are medically retired before hitting that mark.

But what about Airmen who serve fewer than 20 years? What can they take away from their Air Force service beyond a medal, a handshake and solid work experience?

A Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and savings plan originally designed for Federal Employee's Retirement System employees and later became available to service members and employees of the older Civil Service Retirement System.

On October 1, service members became eligible to take advantage of a Roth version of the Thrift Savings Plan, where money is deducted from taxed income, but becomes tax-free money when it is withdrawn.

According to TSP's external affairs director, Kim Weaver, there's a big difference between the two options.

"The biggest difference is that the traditional TSP is pre-taxed money, so it reduces the amount of your income in that year," she said. "So let's say your salary is \$50,000 and you contribute \$5,000 to traditional TSP. That money comes out before you pay taxes on it. You're only paying taxes on \$45,000, but, when you retire, or when you need the money, you pay taxes on what you withdraw then.

"The Roth TSP is just the opposite," she explained. "The money coming into the Roth TSP is after-tax money."

Contributors pay taxes before it is put in their account and as long as they follow two IRS rules, it will remain tax free, Weaver explained. Funds contributed must remain in the Roth TSP for five years and members must be 59 and a half before they can withdraw their funds.

"All of the money that comes out is already taxed, so when that

money is withdrawn at retirement, it is tax-free, which makes obviously a huge difference," she explains. "Then the question becomes, 'Do I think I'm going to pay higher taxes now or higher taxes later and is it going to help me to defer income now or is it ok to pay taxes going into the Roth TSP?'"

Federal employees can use the contribution comparison calculator on [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) to help them determine which plan is right for them.

The maximum contribution this year will be \$17,500.

Although Federal Employees must sign up for TSP, Weaver explained that Airmen can take advantage of TSP from day one of their enlistment. It is done through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

While most look at TSP as a roadmap to a comfortable retirement, Weaver said that enrolling in thrift savings, even for one or two enlistments, can pay real dividends.

"They can either leave it in their TSP untouched, move the money around within the funds or leave it in until they are ready to retire," Weaver said. "They can also roll it over into another 401k plan in the private sector if they choose to do that. So, just because service members leave the military, it doesn't mean they are forfeiting their money. Once they contribute their money, the TSP belongs to the participant."

One bit of caution. There can be large tax consequences for Airmen who simply pull their money out without any type of rollover into another account.

"If you get an early start and put in just a little bit of money into either the traditional or Roth TSP, you are going to do yourself a big favor for that time when you are ready to retire."

For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan, go to [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) or check out the following link: [www.youtube.com/user/tsp4gov](http://www.youtube.com/user/tsp4gov).



**THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN**  
Military '401K' gives Airmen options



# Commitment to yourself and the Reserves

By Senior Master Sgt. Dave Merris, first sergeant, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron

Ask 10 people what commitment means to them and you will most likely get 10 different answers. When it comes down to it, commitment is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions to yourself and others and the actions which speak louder than words. It is making the time when there is none. It is coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism. As a reservist we are asked to commit two days a month and an additional 14 days of annual tour a year in service to our country. It's a constant struggle to commit to everything in our lives between family, job and the military and sometimes we have to settle for just being involved and that is OK.

In my 27 years associated with the military I have noticed three types of individuals, those who are committed, those who are involved and those who just show up. The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' but the pig was 'committed'. The third category is comprised of the folks who just show up. These are the individuals who seem to drift through the day with no real

attachment to the organization. They are committed to the reserves by contract only. Everybody knows who these members are; they are the ones who are repeatedly late, consistently head to the dining facility for breakfast after sign-in instead of eating prior, take long lunches and can never be found when it comes to taskings but are always the first to sign-out at the end of the day. Every organization

**"There are only two creatures of value on the face of the earth: those with the commitment, and those who require the commitment of others."**

~ John Adams

strives to have members who are committed to its goals. It is imperative due to the nature of our business as a member of the Air Force Reserves that we commit to getting as much out of a UTA weekend as we can.

I would challenge each of you to commit to converting those members in your organization who just show up to be more involved and eventually be committed. I have seen the transition in individuals

before and it is remarkable. The change in morale and productivity improves as they move from just showing up, to being involved but it requires interaction from both team members and supervisors. Individuals tend to perform better when there is a sense of belonging and common goals. If you need ideas on how to get your members involved you can contact you Squadron First Sergeant for assistance. I will leave you with these parting words on commitment from John Adams, "There are only two creatures of value on the face of the earth: those with the commitment, and those who require the commitment of others."

**ATTENTION AFR/ANG Teens!**

Are YOU ready for a Leadership Journey?  
(ages 14-18) Join The Journey, Destination...

**2013 SUMMIT Teen Leadership**  
AIR FORCE RESERVE • NATIONAL GUARD

Tap into your leadership potential while discovering your hidden strengths at one of the 2013 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits. These week-long programs for AFR/ANG dependent teens (ages 14-18) combine high-adventure activities with hands-on leadership workshops that allow you to reach new heights. What are you waiting for? Transportation and camp costs are funded by AF! Apply today!

Classic Summit: 16 - 22 Jun 13 - Dahlonega, GA  
Adventure Summit: 13 - 18 Aug 13 - Estes Park, CO

Join us! For information & application (Due by 15 April 2013)  
[www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit](http://www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit)

## AFR/ANG announces 2013 teen leadership summits

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga . -- The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officials announced the 2013 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit locations.

This year's summits will be held in Dahlonega, Ga., and Estes Park, Colo.

The teen summits combine high-adventure activities with leadership classes to allow teens to tap into their leadership potential and discover hidden strengths while developing a sense of belonging as part of the Air Force community.

Teens with a parent in the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard can sign up to attend one of the free summits. April 15 is the application deadline. Participants must be 14 to 18 years old.

Applicants must answer essay questions and complete code of conduct and transportation forms to attend one of the summits.

The first summit is the Classic Teen Leadership Summit in Dahlonega, June 16-21.

During this week-long adventure, teens will participate in group activities such as high ropes, zip-line canopy tour, white-water rafting, hiking, fishing, archery and survival classes. Attendees will be introduced to community partners, such as 4-H Club, American Legion and the Y, that provide support to military families. The teens will also attend leadership classes throughout the week.

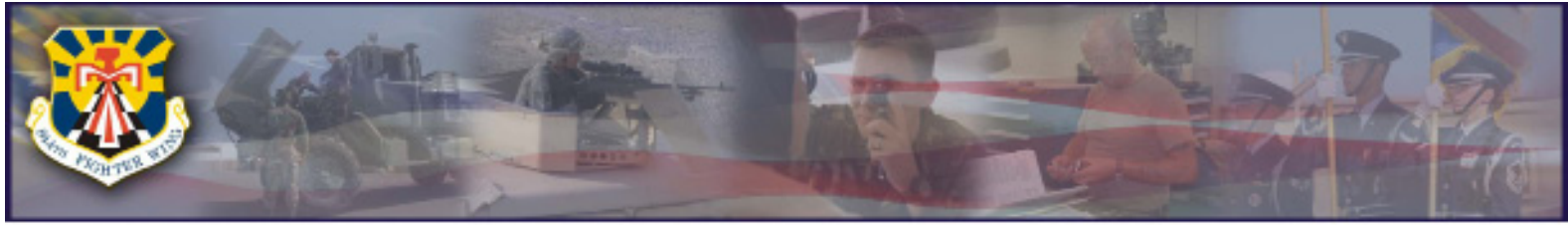
The second summit is the Adventure Teen Leadership Summit in Estes Park, Aug. 13-18.

During this summit, teens will take part in daily adventure activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, horse colt training, arts and crafts, woodworking, technical rock climbing and archery. Leadership classes taught throughout the week include the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens." Each evening, teens will gather for programs including camp fires and songs, musical performances and environmental education classes.

Both summits include military traditions and community service projects.

For more information, please contact Casey Mull or Marilyn Huff-Waller at [milcamps@uga.edu](mailto:milcamps@uga.edu) or (706) 542-4444. Email is the preferred contact method until closer to the summer. More information is also available at <http://www.georgia4h.org/afrangteensummit>.





# Task force established to close gaps between active, Guard, Reserve

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri, Air Force Public Affairs Agency

Air Force senior leaders recently constructed a task force to develop the best ways to bring the active, Reserve, and Guard closer together to achieve the most capable force possible.

To meet the challenges of the future, the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force directed the stand-up of the Total Force Task Force, or TF2, to develop strategic options on the appropriate total force capabilities mix to meet current and future Air Force requirements.

“The results of this task force will inform our strategic planning and programming for fiscal 2015 and beyond, and will also serve as a resource to the congressionally-directed national commission on the structure of the Air Force that will be examining total-force issues later this year,” said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley at the Air Force Association’s Air Warfare Symposium & Technology Exposition Feb. 22.

The commission will study the structure of the Air Force to determine whether, and how, the structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission requirements for the Air Force in a manner consistent with available resources.

The task force is led by senior leaders from the active-duty, Reserve and Guard who will work under Lt. Gen. Mike Moeller, who is the deputy chief of staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., in coordination with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve leadership.

The results of their work will form the Air Force’s planning process for fiscal 2015 and beyond. The expectation is for active, Reserve and Guard components to learn from each other, while also looking into the strengths and weaknesses of today’s total force efforts.

“The determination of our leadership to break down barriers pre-

venting us from planning and advancing as a total force will drive this effort to success,” said Maj. Gen. Joe Balskus, who is the military assistant to the deputy chief of staff for Strategic Plans and Programs. “The team we have assembled from the three components and the extended team members across Headquarters Air Force, the Air Force secretariat, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve is incredibly impressive.”

Over the past two decades, the Air Force has become a more integrated force, both operationally and organizationally, across the total force. As a result, senior leaders want to ensure the service is structured in a way that ensures the service can achieve its strategic objectives going forward.

“In view of this increased integration, as well as upcoming strategic shifts driven by post-Afghanistan reconstitution and the new Defense Strategic Guidance, the Air Force needs to undertake a comprehensive review of total force requirements and develop a strategic plan to ensure the Air Force correctly balances the strengths of each of the components to sustain the capabilities required in the years ahead,” Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III stated in a memorandum about the task force.

Moeller said he is optimistic about the task force and the synergy it will generate within the planning community.

“Under the chief of staff and secretary’s guidance,” he said, “we are taking the right steps to bring our Air Force together as one team in order to collaboratively answer one of the most important questions we face as a service, ‘what is the most effective balance of capabilities between the active duty, Guard and Reserve?’ The task force is designed to be open and transparent, and we will need the help of all stakeholders to ensure success.”

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