



944th Fighter Wing Monthly SnapShot

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September 2013

944 FW KEY LEADERS

Commander

Col. Kurt J. Gallegos

Vice Commander

Lt. Col. Robert Whitehouse

Command Chief

CMSgt Thomas Brandhuber

Mission

Train and provide Combat-Ready Citizen Airmen in support of our national objectives.

944th Fighter Wing Electronic Monthly SnapShot:

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Focus on discipline and responsibility

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

This past Labor Day was the official end of the Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer. Kids are back in school and the heat is starting to give us a little bit of a break but our critical days are not over.

This year the Air Force had 21 fatalities according to the preliminary data collected during the 101 Critical Days of Summer. The leading causes of the fatalities were motorcycle and private motor vehicle accidents. Sports and water recreation accidents also lead to several fatalities. Plus there were a multitude of DUIs and injuries. Thankfully our wing did not have any deaths but we did have seven mishaps during the summer.

I feel that we are trending in the wrong direction when it comes to safety and it boils down to discipline and responsibility. One of the things that we, as military members, are known for is our discipline. Discipline is something that is drilled into us during basic training when we learned to follow orders and to put the welfare of the unit above our own, one of our core values even being service before self. Discipline builds personal character and hinges on honor, personal integrity and courage. Without it things become disorganized and failure is never far behind.

Responsibility is something that we have been highlighting for quite some time. We all need to be responsible for our actions and have the courage to step in and hold your wingman responsible for their actions. This means making safe and smart decisions when it comes to your safety and the safety of those around you. It means doing the right thing even when no one is looking.

As a wing we need to start focusing on discipline and taking responsibility for our actions. We are held to a higher standard for a reason and we need to make sure we are living up to that standard.



944th Fighter Wing Promotion Enhancement Program Promotees

Master Sergeant Sandra L. Plentzas, 944th Medical Squadron,
promoted to Senior Master Sergeant

Staff Sergeant Owen E. Dismuke, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron,
promoted to Tech. Sergeant

Staff Sergeant Robert C. Fink, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron,
promoted to Tech. Sergeant

Staff Sergeant Brian M. Miller, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron,
promoted to Tech. Sergeant

Staff Sergeant Ramsay K. Tandal, 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron,
promoted to Tech. Sergeant



Your career is yours

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

Well football season is upon us, and I am hopeful that Notre Dame has recovered from the Alabama game in January.

Our wing had another successful group of Promotion Enhancement Program nominees, congratulations to: Master Sgt. Sandra L. Plentzas, Medical Squadron, Staff Sgt. Owen E. Dismuke, Staff Sgt. Robert C. Fink, Staff Sgt. Brian M. Miller, and Staff Sgt. Ramsay K. Tandal all from the Logistics Readiness Squadron. Special thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Harvey and the Force Support Squadron for their efforts in providing quality packages to Air Force Reserve Command. The feedback provided by AFRC has been positive and included what they were looking for in the PEP packages as well as items that were missing. This information will be provided to Commanders, Chiefs, First Sergeants, and at the Top Three and Rising Six meetings.

PEP is just one of the programs that is out there for personnel to compete for. I have spoken to you about Key Personnel Lists, Reserve-Enlisted Development Plan, Enlisted Development Education Board courses. Promotions, Enlisted Performance Reports, awards and decorations are part of this as well. Even with all of the acronyms and ever increasing standards you must excel at your primary job. If someone told you being a reservist was easy; then they lied to you! We have many tasks to juggle on an Unit Training Assembly and the number of tasks and expectations of reservists will not diminish, rather they will grow. I want to be clear and ensure that every member of our wing understands that you do not have a right or a promise of a promotion, regardless of your time in the wing or your expertise in a function. Promotions are based on merit and value that an individual brings to the organization. You must be fit, and you must present a professional military image in your uniform. PME must be completed, education done, awards and decorations current, and EPRs reflective of your performance. When an opening occurs, it is not the time to try to get everything done. You never know when a position may open up. As an individual you must ensure that you are doing what you need to do to be successful. If you don't know, don't be afraid to ask. Your career is yours. If you don't take it seriously don't expect anyone else to.

The good news is you have people who are here to support you and your career. Your supervisor, First Sergeant, Chief, and Commander are here to help you succeed.

Thank you for your service, dedication and commitment. It is not easy and I don't take for granted the sacrifices that everyone makes to serve our country.

Keep our deployed members and their families in your thoughts. See you around the wing. "Go Irish."

Promotions:

The following members were promoted 1 September 2013:

Airman Ashlynd R. Fine to the rank of Airman First Class, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Senior Airman Kenneth L. Ueland to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron
Senior Airman Marsi M. Smith to the rank of Staff Sergeant, 944th Force Support Squadron
Staff Sergeant Jessica A. Chase to the rank of Tech. Sergeant, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Staff Sergeant Ashley L. Horne to the rank of Tech. Sergeant, 307th Fighter Squadron
Tech. Sergeant Frederick P. Oden to the rank of Master Sergeant, 414th Maintenance Squadron



Announcing our newest lieutenant colonels

Major Brian Casson, 924th Fighter Group
Major Keith S. Gempler, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Jon E. Giulietti, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Chard W. Jennings, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Shawn R. Ortiz, 944th Operations Support Flight
Major Nathaniel B. Ott, Lemay Doctrine/ED
Major Scott C. Petts, 45th Fighter Squadron
Major Joseph D. Rucker, 45th Fighter Squadron

Major Peter W. Scholl, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major David A. Scott, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Rodney M. Thurman, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Richard R. Valdes, 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron
Major Edsel B. Wooten II, 69th Fighter Squadron
Major Michael S. Bess, 307th Fighter Squadron
Major Jason S. Reiss, 307th Fighter Squadron



The Air Force Reserve recently relaunched the Get1Now referral program. This program enables you to submit the names of quality individuals for consideration into the Air Force Reserve. Your referral can be a friend, relative, co-worker or even a neighbor. Additionally, if your submission leads to an accession, then you can receive an incentive award. Let's work to find the next generation of Citizen Airmen. To find more information about the program or to submit a candidate, go to the website www.get1now.us.



LRS heads to USAFE for annual tour

by Staff Sgt. Joshua Nason, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members from the 944th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. escaped the summer heat and travelled to cooler climates for their annual tour at RAF Mildenhall, England, in July.

Every year each reservist performs a 15-day annual tour to increase working knowledge of their career field. This year the 944th LRS worked with the 100th LRS, an active duty unit based out of RAF Mildenhall. Personnel from the 944th LRS; Fuels, Traffic Management Office, Supply, Vehicle Maintenance, Vehicle Operations, Logistics Planning, Aerial Port, and Training sections worked and trained directly with their counterparts within the 100th LRS.

Months of coordination leading up to the AT allowed the 944th members to get down to business and begin work. The Vehicle Maintenance Airmen from the 944th made an immediate impact upon getting to the shop. "I was completely blown away at the fact that the 944th just jumped right in. They handled some significant troubleshooting right away. We had a 50k forklift that hasn't been used in over two years that they correctly troubleshooted and started repairing in just a day or two," stated Master Sgt. Adam Morrison, Vehicle Fleet Manager, 100th LRS.

Hitting the ground running was a common theme amongst all the sections of the 944th LRS. TMO picked up the Inbound Receiving Process, something new to the 944th Airmen and immediately got

trained up helping the 100th TMO section work through their backlog. The Supply section assisted the 100th with their normal supply duties as well as putting together travelling maintenance kits for the CV-22, an airframe the 944th Airmen have not had the opportunity to work with before. The Aerial Port processed over 100 passengers, 43 pallets and over 123,000 pounds of cargo at the AMC terminal in just two weeks. Vehicle Operations received critical training on European specification vehicles and a high capacity wrecker used for buses and tractor trailers that most members have never had the chance to work with, therefore giving them experience on a wider array of vehicles which can come in handy in a deployed environment. The POL shop assisted in checkpoint every morning with the 100th, as well as working pipeline, area lab, and fueling a vast array of aircraft.

It was apparent throughout the annual tour that the total force initiative was in full swing. Maj. Michael Boswell, Commander, 100th LRS explained, "Having the 944th LRS here with us is like having relatives in town for two weeks. It doesn't matter if we are active duty or reserve, we are all one force and we are all a part of the logistics readiness family."

According to Lieutenant Col. Kip Schlum, Commander, 944th LRS, it was a great trip and experience for our Airmen. "The leadership thanked us for our work and our smooth entrance and they want us back" he said.



Technical Sgt. Joseph Sowden trains Senior Airmen Julia Juvera-Silvain on the operation of a 10k forklift while on annual tour at RAF Mildenhall, UK July 19, 2013. (US Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Nason)

Airmen build opportunity to combine volunteerism and learning

By Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega, 944th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 944th Civil Engineer Squadron seized another opportunity to provide quality training for their Airmen and contribute to the Luke Air Force Base community during the August Unit Training Assembly.

Senior Airman Donald McGuire, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron structure specialist, became the driving force for two major projects at the bases Airman's Attic, a non-profit volunteer and donation based organization.

It all began when McGuire volunteered at the Airman's Attic through an internship program for his service learning project with Glendale Community College as part of his Masters Degree program in Non-Profit Management and Leadership from Arizona State University.

"I had anticipated that I would mainly be sorting through donated items and stocking them on the shelves," said McGuire. The experience turned out to be more than he anticipated and by the time his required 45 hours of volunteer service was complete he had developed and was in charge of two

major construction improvement projects.

"SrA Donald McGuire has become a very valuable asset at the Airman's Attic. Had we known his capabilities we would have tapped into his skills a long time ago," said Katrina Garza, manager of the Airman's Attic. "Without SrA McGuire's knowledge and skills we would still be in the talking and planning phases of our current projects."

The first project McGuire developed was an enclosed child care area, dubbed "the Kid Zone". The Kid Zone is a place for kids to play while their parents either shop or volunteer at the Airman's Attic. The construction of the project began on August 3rd and is projected to be completed by the end of the month.

The second project he undertook was an addition to the Airman's Attic that would add retail space and provide room for a new non-profit organization called Cinderella and Prince Charming's Closet.

Cinderella and Prince Charming's Closet is a place where new Airman can rent uniforms and dresses for graduations, proms, weddings, and Air Force ceremonies or balls. Normally, dress uniforms can cost an Airman up to five hundred dollars,



Cinderella's Closet will allow Airman the opportunity to attend these events without the added expense.

The Cinderella and Prince Charming's Closet project began on August 1st and is expected to be done this week.

"We seize any and all opportunities to train and hone our skills," said Anthony Harback, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron superintendent of operations, about the 944th's involvement with the Airman's Attic projects. "This is one of those perfect opportunities as a tenant unit, to integrate with and assist our host community and gain valuable training at the same time."



Sequestration impacts felt throughout Air Force Reserve Command

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- The impact of sequestration on readiness and morale has been felt widely throughout Air Force Reserve Command units.

Under the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, across-the-board budget reductions, referred to as "sequestration," were initiated on March 1, 2013, and included a mandatory six-day furlough for Department of Defense civilian employees.

"We won't know the full effects of sequestration for months, or maybe even a year or two," said Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley, vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command, "but we are already able to identify impacts throughout the command."

Many AFRC flying units reported reduced aircraft availability for training due to maintenance. The furlough of aircraft maintenance personnel has disrupted aircraft maintenance schedules, reducing 12- and 24-hour fix rates and reducing mission capable rates for aircraft.

"We've had a few wings report that pilots, loadmasters and aerial refueling boom operators have lost currency due to the lack of aircraft availability," said Gourley. "We know there will be a cost in terms of dollars

and time to regain aircrew proficiency."

According to Gourley, the impact to training goes beyond aircrew.

"Sequestration and furloughs have caused a delay in upgrade training for reservists in their career specialty," said Gourley, "and we have seen the cancellation of mobile training teams and inspections."

The direct impact on reservists affects morale. Reserve units are reporting delays in Reserve pay and travel voucher processing, which has led to increased government travel card delinquency. Due to civilian furloughs, one force support squadron reported a 50 percent reduction in the processing of DD Form 214s, which document a person's "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty." Reserve medical units report a growing backlog of line-of-duty determinations and medical evaluation board cases, and the processing of flying waivers.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley AFB, Colo., has been hit particularly hard. "The average pay grade level at ARPC is pretty low," said Brig Gen Jay Flournoy, commander of ARPC. "The employees did not have enough time to save money to make up for their losses in pay. Almost immediately, we were contacted by one mortgage lender



who had received a letter from one of our employees who could not pay his mortgage."

According to Flournoy, ARPC has seen a loss of productivity. The Health Professionals Scholarship Program application backlog has more than doubled during the furlough period. ARPC customer waiting time has increased by two days, and there is a three-day delay in processing orders and approving documents in the orders writing system.

"Sequestration and furlough has been tough on everyone in the Air Force Reserve," said Gourley, "but I am impressed with the professionalism and dedication our reservists and civilian employees have demonstrated during this challenging time."

AF announces PT test enhancements to start Oct. 1

by Staff Sgt. David Salinitri, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force senior leadership announced enhancements to the Air Force's Physical Fitness Assessment program, to be implemented Oct. 1.

In a letter to Airmen Aug. 20, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III explained the results of the comprehensive review, highlighting the strength of the program and the need for slight improvements.

"We have a tremendous program that has fundamentally changed the Air Force's overall fitness level over the past few years," Welsh said. "The PFT itself is not going to change. But even the best program can be improved upon, so we are making changes in four different areas to enhance the overall program."

Of the changes coming Oct. 1, the most significant is to the abdominal circumference portion of the test. The AC assesses an Airman's body composition.

Since the Air Force implemented the newest fitness program guidelines in October 2010, only .03 percent of Airmen have failed the AC portion of the test and passed the other three components with a composite score of 75 or higher.

"In the future, if an Airman fails the AC portion of the test, and

passes each of the other three components, we'll measure that Airman using the Body Mass Index taping guidance in DoD instructions," Welsh said. "If the Airman meets the DoD BMI standard, they pass the PFT."

Because AC measurement is integrated into the testing procedure, the Air Force is currently the only branch of the Department of Defense not required to have a separate weight management program.

The other program modifications include realigning the fitness appeal process back to wing commanders, adjusting passing standards for Airmen who can only test on one component of assessment, and changing and simplifying the walk test.

In addition to these efforts, senior leaders are reviewing how fitness performance is documented on performance reports as part of a larger effort to examine the performance report itself. Those results are expected in the near future.

Though senior leaders are looking to improve the current fitness program, Welsh said he is proud of the Air Force program, and the physically fit culture it has helped to cultivate.

"I believe we have DoD's best designed, best run fitness program, and as a result, we have a force ready for any mission our nation asks us to execute," he said. "I'm extremely proud of how far we've come with our fitness culture."



o AIR FORCE RESERVE o

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New tuition assistance process eliminates up-front fees

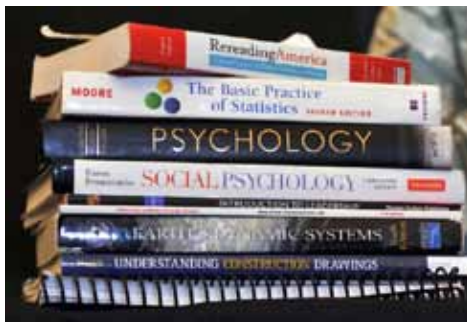
By Master Sgt. J. LaVoie, Air Force Reserve Command

Air Force Reserve Command will implement a new tuition assistance payment process Oct. 1 that will eliminate up-front fees reservists pay for classes by enabling tuition payments to go directly to a university or college.

"This new TA process will be a huge relief for our members," said Col. Heather Connahey, chief of the AFRC personnel division.

Reservists currently have to wait up to 120 days after submitting their grades to be reimbursed for classes. Under the new process, they will still apply for tuition assistance through the Air Force Virtual Education Center. However, payment issues are taken out of their hands and handled by the Air Force, which will pay the school through an automated system.

Airmen will be able to apply under the new process in mid-September for classes that begin on or after Oct. 1. Once the administrative drop/add period ends for the course, the college or university will bill AFRC. Additionally, the college or university will load the grade in the system, although students are still responsible for ensuring the grade is loaded.



This new automated process will be a welcomed relief not just for students but also for program administrators, according to Tech Sgt. Ed Wilchinski, AFRC tuition assistance program manager.

Wilchinski explained that the old process involved printing and scanning several documents.

"It quickly became tedious and time-consuming as applications rolled in," said Wilchinski. As many as 80 applications are submitted on any given day, and reservists had to wait up to 120 days from the time they submitted their final grades to the time they received payments.

"[The old way] was a huge burden on the member," said Wilchinski. "We want them to be able to continue their education, not be held up by a process."

Most colleges are familiar with the process and system. However if an institution is unfamiliar with it, the approving education and training office can provide instructions. If additional assistance is needed, AFRC will connect the institution with a system expert.

For more information on the upcoming changes and questions about tuition assistance contact the 944th Fighter Wing Training and Education Office at 623-856-5318.

Hatch Act - federal and state elections 'mays and may nots'

2013 is an "off-year" for most federal and state elections. However, there are still a few elections happening this November. As we approach those, please remember that all military personnel and civilian employees in the executive branch are covered by the Hatch Act. For AGR, ART, and civilian personnel, the Hatch Act applies at all times. For TRs, it applies while in a duty status.

The Hatch act restricts political activities by executive branch employees, and states they may not engage in a number of activities.

Covered employees may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election. This "may not" list includes the following:

- Use of official titles or positions while engaged in political activity.
- Inviting subordinates to political events or otherwise suggesting to subordinates that they attend political events or undertake a partisan political activity.
- Soliciting, accepting, or receiving a donation or contribution for a partisan political party, candidate, or group. This includes hosting a political fundraiser and inviting others to a political fundraiser.
- Being candidates for public office in partisan political elections.
- Campaigning for or against candidate

for partisan political office or a partisan political group while on duty, in any federal office or building, while wearing a uniform or official insignia, or using any federally owned or leased vehicle. This includes things such as distributing, displaying, or wearing campaign materials or items; making contributions to a partisan political party, candidate or group; posting a comment to a blog or a social media site that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or group; and using any e-mail account or social media to distribute, send, or forward content that advocates for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or group.

So, with such a long list of "may nots," what can executive branch employees do? The Hatch Act allows employees to do the following so long as there is no use of one's official position and the activity is not taken while on duty, in a federal office or building, or while in uniform:

- Running for public office in nonpartisan elections.
- Registering and voting as they choose.
- Assisting in voter registration drives.
- Contributing money to political campaigns, parties, or groups.

- Attending political fundraising functions, rallies, and meetings.
- Having an active membership in political clubs or parties.
- Holding office in political clubs or parties.
- Signing and circulating nominating petitions.
- Campaigning for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances.

• Distributing campaign literature in partisan elections.

• Volunteering to work on a partisan political campaign.

• Expressing opinions about candidates and issues, subject to UCMJ Article 88 which prevents commissioned officers from using contemptuous words against the President, Vice President, SECDEF, SECFAF (and the other service secretaries), the Secretary of Homeland Security, Congress, or the Governor of the state in which the officer is stationed.

If you have any question about the Hatch Act's "mays" and "may nots," feel free to contact Lt. Col. Alan Goodwin at james.goodwin.1@us.af.mil.

(Information provided by the 944th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office)



VA Grants up to One Year Retroactive Benefits for Veterans Filing Fully Developed Claims to Help Reduce the Backlog

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans filing an original Fully Developed Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation may be entitled to up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits. The retroactive benefits, which are in effect Aug. 6, 2013, through Aug. 5, 2015, are a result of a comprehensive legislative package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama last year.

“VA strongly encourages Veterans to work with Veterans Service Organizations to file Fully Developed Claims and participate in this initiative, since it means more money in eligible Veterans’ pockets simply by providing VA the information it needs up front,” said Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits. “At the same time, it helps reduce the inventory of pending claims by speeding the process.”

Filing an FDC is typically the fastest way for Veterans to receive a decision on their claims because Fully Developed Claims require Veterans to provide all supporting evidence in their possession when they submit their claims. Often, this is evidence that VA legally must attempt to collect on the Veteran’s behalf, which is already in the Veteran’s possession, or is evidence the Veteran could easily obtain, like private treatment records.

When Veterans submit such evidence with their claims, it significantly reduces the amount of time VA spends gathering evidence from

them or other sources -- often the longest part of the claims process. While VA will still make efforts to obtain federal records on the Veterans’ behalf, the submittal of non-federal records (and any federal records the Veteran may have) with the claim allows VA to issue a decision to the Veteran more quickly. Typically, VA processes FDCs in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

FDCs can be filed digitally through the joint, DoD-VA online portal, eBenefits (www.ebenefits.va.gov). VA encourages Veterans who cannot file online to work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) who can file claims digitally on Veterans’ behalf. While submitting an FDC provides a faster decision for any compensation or pension claim, only Veterans who are submitting their very first compensation claim as an FDC are potentially eligible for up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits under the newly implemented law.

FDCs help eliminate VA’s claims backlog because they increase production of claims decisions and decrease waiting times. Also, VA assigns FDCs a higher priority than other claims which means Veterans receive decisions to their claim faster than traditional claims.

VA continues to prioritize other specific categories of claims, including those of seriously wounded, terminally ill, Medal of Honor recipients, former Prisoners of War, the homeless and those experiencing extreme financial hardship.

As part of its drive to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015, VA also gives a priority to claims more than a year old.

In May, VA announced a new partnership with Veterans Service Organizations and others known as the “Community of Practice,” an effort that seeks to reduce the compensation claims backlog for Veterans by increasing the number of FDCs filed by Veterans and their advocates.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department’s goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. In May, VA announced that it was mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices to increase production of compensation claims decisions through the end of FY 2013. In April, VA launched an initiative to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have a waited a year or longer.

As a result of these initiatives, VA’s total claims inventory remains at lower levels not seen since August 2011. The number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending over 125 days – has been reduced by 17 percent compared to the highest point in March 2013.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov, and the FDC program at www.benefits.va.gov/fdc/.

(Courtesy of Veterans Administration)

Air Force reminds Airmen to avoid hemp seed products

Recent news reports on the Air Force’s prohibition of a popular yogurt brand spotlighted a regulation, in effect since the late 1990s, aimed at ensuring military readiness.

Recently, military members were told to avoid a Chobani yogurt called “Blueberry Power Chobani Flip” because it contains hemp seeds and walnuts that can be mixed into the yogurt.

Chobani since stated they will remove the ingredient from this product, according to the Air Force Surgeon General’s office.

“The Air Force has a long-standing policy in place that prohibits military members from ingesting any product, regardless of manufacturer, that contains or is derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil,” said Capt. Adam Koudelka, legal advisor for the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

“Military members are not prohibited from ingesting other products not containing or derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil.”

The prohibition is explained in Air Force Instruction 44-120, paragraph 1.1.5, as well as AFI 44-121, paragraph 3.2.2, which states, “Studies have shown that products made with hemp seed and hemp seed oil may contain varying levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), an active ingredient of marijuana which is detectable under the Air

Force Drug Testing Program. In order to ensure military readiness, the ingestion of products containing or products derived from hemp seed or hemp seed oil is prohibited.”

Captain Koudelka emphasized each military member is individually responsible for ensuring he or she is compliant with this policy, and failure to do so is a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

If an Airman is found to have consumed hemp seeds or oil, they can be punished for disobeying the regulation, according to Gregory Girard, deputy director of administrative law, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Reading labels is the best practice, because the ingredient can be contained in myriad products available in health food stores and throughout consumer markets.

“Air Force military members should be mindful that products containing hemp seeds can be found at health food stores, including health food stores and commissaries located on military bases, and therefore the best policy for Airmen to follow is to be vigilant about what they put into their body,” Koudelka said. A good practice is to read product labels prior to consumption to see whether the product contains hemp seed or hemp seed oil.

(Courtesy Office of the Air Force Surgeon General)





Reserve Officers Association Expands Eligibility

WASHINGTON – Members of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) have expanded the organization's membership eligibility to include non-commissioned officers (NCOs).

Delegates to the association's annual convention overwhelmingly approved the measure over the weekend. The move opens the organization's doors to NCO ranks from all uniformed services.

With the expansion, ROA, historically known as the nation's leading advocate for Reservists and their families adds a level of strength to their voice in Washington. Founded in 1922 by veterans of World War I, this adjustment to ROA's membership is being heralded as a watershed moment for an organization steeped in history.

Speaking to members following the vote, ROA's newly installed national president Brigadier General Michael Silva, USA (Ret), praised the rationale behind the decision to expand. "This is about more than strengthening our voice on the Hill;

it's about doing what's right for the total Reserve force." Underscoring the exemplary service of today's NCO's General Silva went on to call the expansion "both strategically necessary and morally right." Silva continued, "The unique burdens of Reserve duty extend beyond rank and with this vote we're sending a message to the total force: if you're a Citizen Warrior, in or out of uniform, you belong with ROA."

Echoing the sentiment was the organization's executive director Major General Andrew Davis, USMC (Ret). "Today's NCO corps is widely considered the most capable in the history of our military. They have performed and sacrificed on equal footing with our commissioned officers for more than a decade and they deserve a strong advocate working on their behalf."

In a statement to its existing membership of roughly 60,000 commissioned officers, the organization outlined their new eligibility standards: "Any active, retired or former

commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or petty officer, who at any time upon entering the federal uniformed services took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and, if no longer serving, whose separation occurred under honorable circumstances, is eligible for an active membership."

The Reserve Officers Association is the 60,000-member professional association for all uniformed services of the United States. Chartered by Congress and in existence since 1922, ROA advises and educates the Congress, the President, and the American people on national security, with unique expertise on issues that affect the 1.5 million men and women now serving in America's Reserve Components.

(Information taken from a news release provided by Reserve Officers Association and does not constitute an endorsement from the 944th Fighter Wing.)

Same-sex spouses can get ID cards Sept. 3

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- Same-sex spouses of Air Force military members, eligible civilian employees and military retirees may be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System by their sponsors and get their dependent identification card beginning Sept. 3, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

Following a June 26 Supreme Court decision finding Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, Defense Department officials announced the plan to extend benefits to same-sex spouses.

"We've had a lot of interest from Airmen on this topic," said Karen Bennett, the DEERS/RAPIDS Operations branch chief. "While many military personnel sections take walk-in customers, Airmen who walk in without an appointment may experience longer wait times, so we want to encourage folks to use the online appointment scheduler to make an appointment for DEERS enrollment and ID cards."

To make an appointment, contact the nearest military personnel section or go online to <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

For information about benefits available to spouses, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "ID Cards," or "DEERS" in the search window.

Military Job Fair-Hiring Event

September 12, 2013-11am-2pm

University of Phoenix Campus-

1625 W Fountainhead Parkway Tempe, AZ 85282 –Room 211

Great Opportunities Valley Wide

Full Time/Part Time available

Bring Resume-On the Spot Interviews!!

Staffmark has a number of opportunities available at both their east and west valley locations.

Call 480-250-4902 or email to sessex@a-teamsolutions for questions.



Saturday, September 28, 2013 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Glendale Community College Student Union
(59th & Olive Avenues)

Services & programs that will be available for veterans at the event:

- Interview for a job – employers will be hiring on the spot!
- Receive professional assistance in preparing your resume
- Apply for health-care and other benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Phoenix Veterans' Affairs "Welcome Home Event"
- Much more!