

FLYER

Texas Air National Guard | Fort Worth, Texas



2013 Outstanding Airmen Excellence in all we do



Two Wing Airmen represent Texas in national competition
Preventing sexual assault - awareness and education is key
Conquering the Spartan Beast

Stories in this issue...read on.

Commander's Comments

Welcome to February UTA



Col. John J. Conoley III
136 AW Commander

Welcome to February drill. I trust that everyone had a safe, enjoyable holiday season. As expected, in our day to day dynamic world, we have quite a few challenges on our horizon in the next few months.

The first challenge is sequestration. Sequestration was established by the Budget Control Act to mandate unilateral budget cuts, primarily affecting DOD, in the event a federal budget cannot be agreed to and implemented. Secretary Panetta calculated that sequestration represents a reduction of nearly 20 percent in DOD funding over the next 10 years. Legislators have until March 1st to reach an agreement on the budget or sequestration will kick in. To date, the National Guard Bureau has not made any specific announcements as to the impact should sequestration be enacted. Even so, I would anticipate a 20 percent cut at least to our civilian pay budget and the flying hour budget. Although this would be one of the largest challenges we have faced, I have trust in the leadership of the TXMF and the ANG to mitigate the negative affects should it be necessary.

On to our next challenge. In 32

drill days (May 2014), we will have our Consolidated Unit Inspection (CUI) which includes the CI, LCAP, ASEV, ESOHCAMP, AOCI, ART 6 and HSI. For those new to the unit, these are comprehensive inspections that we undergo approximately every five years. If your section or unit is not already running the appropriate checklists, validating programs, collaborating with other units, then NOW is the time to start. We have a history of doing well on these inspections, but it is because of YOUR diligence and hard work. So I ask everyone to do their part to ensure our success. Should you have questions regarding the CUI, contact either Major Markus Gonser or Lt. Col. Dave Compton for more information.

As you should be aware, last drill we conducted a Morale and Welfare Inspection. The purpose of that inspection was to reset our workplace to a more professional environment. The message is: if it is pornographic, inappropriate, offensive or unprofessional, then it doesn't belong ANYWHERE in the workplace. Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, Director of the Air National Guard requested the inspection as a response to the sexual assault allegations currently within the Air Force. In case you are not aware, the 136th has had its own share of reported sexual assaults—so we are not immune. Unprofessional work environments and attitudes can contribute to sexual assaults. With your help, they can be a thing of the past. Thank you for your cooperation.

One last word about the 54th Annual National Guard Association of Texas (NGAT) Conference coming up on 22-24 March. NGAT is our professional military organization that keeps us informed about issues that affect us. If you are able to attend the conference, then I encour-

age you to do so. For more information, visit www.ngat.org.

Thank you for your dedication. Enjoy your drill.



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WESO/Community Manager

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Cover Photo by
Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs



National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert

2013 Outstanding **Airmen** of the year

by Airman Cody P. Witsaman
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CAMP MABRY, Texas -- Thirty-one outstanding Airmen from various units across Texas competed here, Jan. 13, 2013 to determine the top Airmen in six categories.

“The process of becoming Outstanding Airmen of the Year starts at each individual unit, and the selected Airmen first have to win their squadron, or their group, or their wing before they can advance to the state level,” said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Selheim, Superintendent Headquarters A6.

Setting up an event such as the OAY takes around six months to plan out, said Selheim. “This is very time consuming

but I enjoy doing it and I am glad to be a part of the OAY board.”

Each nominee stood before a panel of four to five Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and were then interviewed and judged on their dress and appearance and how they embodied and exceeded the Air Force core values.

The questions included knowledge of Air Force history, current events and personal questions of their own values.

The moment of truth had come.

Selheim announced the winners for each category: Airmen - Senior Airman Tabare Faison, 204th Security Forces Squadron; Non-Commissioned Officer

- Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Tatum, 136th Airlift Wing; Senior Non-Commissioned Officer - Master Sgt. Mike Connelley, 273rd Information Operations Squadron; First Sergeant - Master Sgt. Malvin Barge-Rivera, 147th Reconnaissance Wing; Honor Guard Member - Tech. Sgt. Olympia Williamson, 136th Airlift Wing; Honor Guard Manager - Tech. Sgt. David Williams, 147th Reconnaissance Wing.

After the announcements were made, Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Tatum, 136th Logistics Readiness Squadron, had a huge grin on her face because not only did she win NCO of the Year but a fellow 136th member, Tech. Sgt. Olympia Williamson

OAY continued on page 4

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Assumption of Command



Col. John J. Conoley, commander, passes on the traditional Wing coin stamped with the number series 002 to the newly appointed vice commander, Col. George W. Holt during the January drill, Jan. 26, 2013. Col. Holt, formerly 136th Operations Group commander, officially took the position in December 2012. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Charles Hatton)



Major Gen. John Nichols, Adjutant General for the State of Texas congratulates Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Tatum, 136th Airlift Wing, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for Texas at Camp Mabry, Jan. 13, 2013. Tatum continues on for the State in the national competition, competing against active duty Air Force and Reserves. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)



OAY continued from page 3

136th Logistics Readiness Squadron, also won in her group as well.

“I feel very proud that the 136th has supported me, gotten me to this level and for all their hard work, dedication, time, effort and energy; I am just happy to represent them,” said Tatum.

Being selected as a nominee as OAY is also a huge honor to each service member; nominees and winners alike were proud to be a part of such a special event.

“It is an honor to be here with everyone that has been selected from other wings,” said Master Sgt. Nora Castor, First Sergeant, 136th Civil Engineer Squadron. “It has never been about the promotions, it has never been for the recognition but it has simply been about giving back and hopefully those individuals can do the same thing to brighten their opportunities and spread the word about the Air National Guard.”

The Air National Guard becomes family to most members; not only do they have family at home but family at work.

“That is my brother (getting the award), that is my sister, that is my fellow 136th member,” said Tatum.



Electricians keep lights **on**

136th Civil Engineers **shine** at Bagram

by Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

2/2/2013 - BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Here on the Department of Defense's busiest airfield, flying operations continue 24 hours a day.

Those operations are enhanced when arriving and departing aircraft are able to see where they are going as opposed to relying on instruments.

That's where the Airfield Lighting team from the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron comes in.

This three-man team goes out every night to replace bulbs, check circuits and pull wires to keep the lights burning brightly.

"These guys work night shift because of all the sorties," said Master Sgt. Anthony Bowen, 455th ECES electrical flight superintendent. "It's so busy it's not favorable to be driving around the airfield during [daylight hours]."

Lights on the airfield range from small blue taxiway lights to 1500 watt floodlights on poles 80 to 120 feet in the air.

"The thing that's most unique about the airfield lighting is that it's a series circuit ... which is not used predominantly except in airfield lighting," said Tech. Sgt. Blake Moulden, 455th ECES airfield lighting team leader. In a series circuit, the electricity flows in only one direction instead of being branched off to separate light fixtures.

"[The circuit] has constant current regulators that maintain the system because it's one big loop around the airfield," said Moulden.

Moulden added there are 16 different circuits around the airfield, all of which have their own current regulators to maintain a constant intensity of light as mandated by Airfield Management. Besides the complexity of the different systems, the team has had to deal with the effects of recent snowstorms.

"If you're climbing [a light pole] in 25 degree temperatures, up there it's a lot colder," said Staff Sgt. Paul Izyk, 455th



Staff Sgt. Paul Izyk, 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems journeyman, removes a taxiway light for inspection on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 31, 2013. Izyk is a member of the Airfield Lighting team which goes out nightly to inspect and maintain lighting systems around the flightline. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. David Dobrydney)

ECES electrical systems journeyman.

However, while the current team has only just started their deployment, Izyk said their work has not gone unnoticed, with a letter of thanks coming from Airfield Management.

"There's just been a lot of stuff we've accomplished in just over a month," he said. "It does put a feather in your cap."



Staff Sgt. Gvonne Burke, crew chief, 136th Maintenance Squadron services the C-130H aircraft with liquid oxygen (LOX) at Nas Fort Worth JRB flightline, Feb. 1, 2013. LOX is used as a source of breathing oxygen while in flight. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)



Crew chiefs of the 136th Maintenance Squadron here have the responsibility to ensure the windshield of the C-130H aircraft are cleaned before takeoff as well as the overall maintenance of the aircraft. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)

11th Command Chief ANG

Letter to Airmen

Fellow Airmen of the Air National Guard:

On 4 February 2013, I began my service as your 11th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard. The appointment to this position is truly humbling, and Marie and I consider it a great privilege and opportunity to be able to walk alongside each of you as we represent the needs of the enlisted force. Marie and I recognize that your decision to serve is no small choice and that as professional Airmen and representatives of our Air National Guard, you and your families make daily sacrifices, and for that we thank you.

As we begin our journey I want to assure you that I stand ready to represent and address those matters that influence the enlisted community's health, morale and welfare. As I serve as your Command Chief, I intend to maintain open and honest dialogue to ensure your voice is heard in both policy and execution on behalf of our Nation, our States and our Air National Guard.

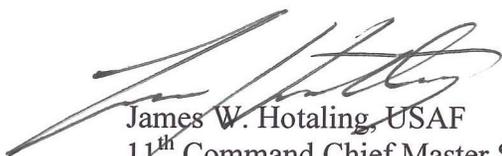
I look forward to engaging with our Guard Airmen over the next four years. I'm here to champion your causes and to ensure that your voice is heard. I'm confident that working together we will continue to execute our mission to fly, fight and win our Nation's wars and serve our communities.

From the original Minutemen of 1636, to the expeditionary Citizen Airmen of 2013, our Air National Guard represents a proud heritage and a legacy of combat ready response domestically and abroad that is only accomplished by men and women who stand ready to balance that responsibility. You are America's heroes because you are America's Airmen.

You should know that Marie and I take your contribution seriously and as such we will be working alongside you and your families to ensure that you are provided everything you need to accomplish your mission.

Maintain that Warrior Spirit and thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,



James W. Hotaling, USAF
11th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the
Air National Guard



James W. Hotaling, USAF
11th Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard

Bio: Chief Master Sgt James W. Hotaling is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, and Command Chief Master Sergeant, 1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern), Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He advises CONR-1AF (AFNORTH) commander on matters influencing the health, morale and welfare of assigned enlisted personnel and their families. First Air Force is one of three numbered air forces assigned to Air Combat command and has the responsibility of ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States (CONUS). As the CONUS geographical component of the binational North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), it provides airspace surveillance and control and directs all air sovereignty activities for the continental United States.

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136th Airlift
Ft. Worth, TX Wing

Hurricane Haulers **conquer** the beast

by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

GLEN ROSE, Texas--For the past nine months members of the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, have been training for the Spartan Beast, a grueling race consisting of 37 obstacles in a span of 13.1 miles here at Rough Creek Lodge, Dec. 8, 2012.

"I started training in March, 2012 for the 'beast' when my mom signed me up for the race," said Joshua Gilbert, 17, the youngest son of Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert and the youngest team member. "My brothers and I worked out doing obstacles just as agonizing if not worse than the Spartan Beast every week."

The Hurricane Haulers, a name befitting the team for their Wing's mission during peace-time operations, finished 18th out of 200 teams who were registered at the race. The team comprised of 18 warriors from Guardsmen to family and friends of the Wing.

Four members of the 136th Operations Group were among the participants. They were known as the 'capee people' for the crimson capes they wore throughout the entire race. Top form and teamwork enabled them to finish the race in average time of little more than four hours.

"This race tested our abilities to endure obstacles and work as a team," said Staff Sgt. Carmen Acosta-Deleon, 181st Airlift Squadron. "We had to work together, cheer each other on and at times push each other in order to finish the race. It was fun and we finished all together. No man or woman was left behind."

Derek Gilbert, the older brother of Joshua, finished the race in the top one percent at two hours and 59 minutes. Derek ranked 50th out of 5,000 racers.

"The worst obstacle for me was the 100 yard swim in 60-degree water! My muscles began to shut down and I knew I had to make it across the lake without drowning," shivered Senior Airman Bri-



Hurricane Haulers, a name befitting the 136th Airlift Wing Spartan Team jump through the wall of fire to conquer the beast, a 13-mile obstacle course at Glen Rose, Texas, Dec. 8, 2012. (National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)

ana Boggs, 136th Airlift Wing Staff, who finished in less than four hours. "Someone jumped in and rescued me just in the nick of time. I made it and that's all that matters."

Other members of the team came from the 136th Security Forces Squadron, 136th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 136th Airlift Wing Staff. All finished the race with no injuries and in high spirits. They have conquered the 'beast'.

The Spartan Beast was sponsored by the Air National Guard for the second year here at Glen Rose. The race promotes physical fitness, teamwork and camaraderie, all of which are needed to be fit-to-fight.

"You will know when you cross that finish line ... all the hard training and all the blood, sweat and tears you shed was well worth it," said Joshua, "and I'll do it again next year," as he showed off his Spartan Warrior medal.



(National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Charles Hatton)

The Spartan **Beast**

13.1 miles filled with 37 grueling obstacles
Team Hurricane Haulers - 18th/200
Average time: 4 hours



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton and Airman Cody Witsaman / 136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Around the **Wing**



Retirement **Chief. Master Sgt. Joe Gipson Jr.**

When: Jan. 26, 2013
136th Maintenance Squadron
Superintendent



Promotion **Lt. Col. Don Nguyen**

When: Jan. 27, 2013
254th Combat Communications Group
Cyberspace Operations Officer



Retirement **Master Sgt. Arabella Fields**

When: Jan. 26, 2013
136th Airlift Wing Staff
Commander's Assistant

If you have an announcement please submit to
136AW.PA@ang.af.mil

THE HAPPENING

The New Year has arrived and 2013 brings on new challenges, innovations and ever changing happenings at Carswell Field. From fini-flights and retirements to showing off what our Airmen do for the Guard, family is always present. (National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton, Staff Sgt. Patrick Chambers and Airman Cody Witsaman)



The Work Place

Airmen from the Wing are everywhere. Their work place ... wherever they showed up to do what they do best, representing the Texas Air National Guard with pride. (National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton and Airman Cody Witsaman)



Health, **Nutrition** and Fitness

It's ok to **fall** off the wagon

Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Edward Walden
136th Force Support Squadron/Services Flight Superintendent

Over the past few years I have been asked to contribute a little something about health, nutrition, and fitness to our news letter as a way to share my thoughts and experiences on the subject. Today, as I write my last contribution (I am moving to Maryland and will be working as the Services Career Field Manger at NGB) I have reflected upon the last few years and came to a couple of conclusions.

When I arrived at this Unit in 2004 I was in the best shape of my life, or at least what I thought was the best shape of my life. I was fit, trim and ready to tackle any test that was thrown my way. After being here a few years my lifestyle

changed. I no longer exercised, I stopped watching what I ate, and basically did not pay much attention to health, nutrition or fitness. I gained weight, got sick often and had trouble focusing my atten-

“I am now, truly, in the best shape of my life”

tion to my life, family and work.

In 2008 I recommitted myself to a healthy lifestyle and have not looked back since that recommitment. I am now, truly, in the best shape of my life, can handle even more tests that are

thrown my way, and have the renewed focus needed to be successful.

The conclusion I reached? It is okay to “fall off the wagon”. It happens to all of us. Being fit and healthy is a choice and not an easy one to maintain. However, it is how long we stay off that wagon that matters. If you are one of us who have fallen or one who has never jumped on, start down the path to where the wagon waits. Small steps will turn into long strides which will end up with you sweating a little and being able to make that long jump right back on the wagon. Jump aboard...it is a fun ride.



Airmen from the 136th Airlift Wing striving for excellence during their annual fitness test, Nov. 17, 2012. (National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Patrick Chambers.)

Dutiful Wingman

Commentary by Capt. Marlette Loughmiller
136th Airlift Wing MEO

There are some key elements that promote mission accomplishment. Diversity is one of them. Diversity in the workplace is critical for success. Along with diversity, comes a certain social responsibility. This means treating each other equally and respectfully regardless of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. In order to do this, we should take an opportunity to inventory our conversations and behaviors to eliminate anything inappropriate or unprofessional.

Please take this opportunity to reflect on your work-place behavior and analyze your conduct for appropriateness. The Air Force is putting into place new directives with full support from AF Headquarters and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force as well as your immediate chain of command. This is in place to remove habitual use of harassment or discrimination in the work place. Behavior that was tolerated in previous eras will not be tolerated now.

Focus on your bearing. Focus on being professional. Proper military bearing is essential to being a professional airman. Deviations can be quite harm-

ful to both others and your career and can severely damage unit morale. Proper military bearing is not only professional – it's the law!

Please keep in mind, whatever you gain by not maintaining your bearing or breaking your professionalism is not worth risking your career. If you are being unprofessional and no one has complained in the past or is not currently complaining, does not automatically mean you are in the right.

Watch your friends, if conversation goes off track – change the subject. You have a duty as an airman to intervene and keep the environment professional. Use your voice! Try and resolve issues at the lowest level possible. If you cannot, remember you have your supervisory chain of command as well as the Military Equal Opportunity office.

Take this opportunity to identify the areas you need to work on. We want to maintain the friendly atmosphere our Wing staff provides and look to continue to work in a pleasant environment.

We commend all of those who believe in professionalism, practice professionalism, compliance, serve quietly and ad-

here to our core values in their work environments and work relationships. You make the Wing proud and are a great example of military bearing and serving in excellence.

If you visit the Equal Opportunity office, the very knowledgeable staff (1st Lt. Carroll and Master Sgt. Romero) will be happy to assist you. We are located in building 1672, room 130 and are open every drill. We frequently offer training at 0930, Sunday drill in the Wing HQ multipurpose room. Check ARCNet for other available times.

You can also find the MEO on the Intranet website under 136 HQ and select MEO. Our phone number is 817-852-3222. You can reach us via email: marlette.loughmiller@ang.af.mil; jennifer.carroll@ang.af.mil; denise.romero@ang.af.mil.

All are welcome. We invite you to meet the new Equal Opportunity Office of the Air Force. Equal opportunity has evolved over the last 10 years and functions differently than the Social Actions of the past. We're here to support you.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you.



(National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert.)



Education and **training** Is **key** to prevention

Commentary by Lt. Col. James Castleman
136th Airlift Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

The media has covered military sexual assault extensively over the past years. Department of Defense and Air Force leadership – from the Secretary down to Wing level have decreed that sexual assaults must end. The number of sexual assaults being reported are high, and will continue to grow. We know that an estimated 80% of sexual assaults go unreported—for a variety of reasons only known to the victims. A real issue is that even though the numbers being reported are increasing, the number of sexual assaults may not necessarily be increasing and could even be going down. But since a large number are not reported, it is impossible to know the truth. One of the largest contributing factors to an increase in the number of sexual assaults being reported is awareness. With an increase in awareness of the situation, Airmen feel more open to report incidents of sexual assault. Airmen are being educated through a variety of means about the definition of sexual assault, and the reporting options available.

What is the DoD definition you may ask – Intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes a variety of forcible acts down to just the threat of committing an act. The DoD Definition is broad and covers the spectrum from extreme acts of sexual assault (rape, sodomy, etc...) to inappropriate touching or just the threat of committing the act.

Reporting options are critical for Airmen to understand. How a report is

made can affect the permanent disposition of the case. There are three types of reporting available, and each has its own set of pros and cons. Restricted reporting is the most restrictive available. Restricted reports **MUST** be made to either a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate, or Healthcare Provider. A victim may also tell a chaplain, or the Wing Director of Psychological Health,

We know that an estimated
80% of sexual assaults go
unreported—for a variety of
reasons only known to the
victims.

but the report will not go any further than there. A restricted report offers almost complete confidentiality. The only person that knows is the person reported to (VA/Healthcare Provider) and the SARC. The Wing commander is notified simply that a sexual assault occurred to a unit member with no identifying information about the victim or the suspect. A Line of Duty Determination is filed with the ANG Surgeon General's office to preserve future benefits for the victim. A drawback of restricted reporting is that nothing will happen to the person suspected of committing the sexual assault and an expedited transfer is not an option. A report that is made to **ANYONE OTHER** than the SARC, VA, WDPH, chaplain or healthcare provider is **AUTOMATICALLY** an unrestricted report. With an unrestricted report, the victim and suspect's (if known) commanders

will be notified. Standard HIPAA restrictions are the only privacy afforded the victim. An investigation will be conducted regarding the incident. An LOD will be filed and a victim advocate will be assigned to help the victim through this process. A victim that files an unrestricted report has the right to request an expedited transfer to another unit. With an unrestricted report, the victim has a chance of seeking justice against the alleged suspect. A drawback for unrestricted reporting is the lack of privacy.

The third type of reporting option is limited reporting. Limited reports is for a sexual assault that occurred to a service member prior to joining the military. The primary benefit of filing a limited report is to access a finite amount of resources for assistance.

Having an increased awareness of the definition of sexual assault, and knowing the reporting options provide Airmen with the knowledge to realize if they need to report and to whom. Sexual assault is very detrimental to unit morale and has no place in society or the Air Force. Remember your wingman construct and look out for each other. That's the best way to start eradicating this problem.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lt. Col. Tom Castleman, the Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (Ofc) 817.852.3203, (Cell) 817.564.1107. You may also contact the DoD Safe Helpline (<https://www.safehelpline.org/>) at 877.995.5247 or research materials on the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office – (<http://www.sapr.mil/>).

Take care of yourself

Commentary by Ms. Brenda Roland
136th Airlift Wing WDPH

The strongest risk factor for suicide is depression. Depression is a highly treatable condition.

Be willing to let others know how you feel and ask for support. Make sure you seek advice for any issues that are affecting your health, daily activities, or relationships.

The Psychological Health Program aims to enhance the well-being of Guard Members in order for you to achieve and establish lifelong healthy behaviors and attitudes to reduce the risk.

So here are three things that you can do right now to help prevent suicide.

If you notice that someone appears to be unhappy or stressed take the time to ask them how they are and listen. Don't be afraid to ask directly about suicide, remember talking about suicide will not cause someone to begin thinking about suicide.

Talk about suicide in a non-judgmental way, and remove the stigma from the word. Many people never talk about suicide, yet it should be talked about frequently. Bring the topic out in the open.

Take care of yourself, learn how to de-stress and enjoy life more.

If you think someone is suicidal, do not leave him or her alone. Try to get the person to seek immediate help from his or

her doctor or the nearest hospital emergency room, or call 911. Eliminate access to firearms or other potential tools for suicide, including unsupervised access to medications.

The resources are here for all of us. If you are distressed, you are not alone. Assistance is here for you. There is hope. Reach out and make the call.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) is a free, confidential hotline for anyone who is thinking about suicide or needs emotional support, 24/7/365.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The following events are currently planned, with more details to follow:

- 6/7 April: Guest speaker (Mrs. Mary Lauterbach) at the 301 FW
- 12 April: 5K, 1100 at the base theater
- 15 April: Self-Defense Class for women, 0800-1630 base gym
- 21-27 April: Candlelight vigil, 1100 Base Chapel

POC is Lt Col Tom Castleman, the 136 AW SARC. James.castleman@ang.af.mil
817.852.3203

Should we **be doing** more

By Capt. Steven Taylor
136th Security Forces Squadron/Anti-Terrorism Officer

I recently read an article dated 16 Sept. 2012 on CNN about the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi Libya. The article posed the question of whether as a nation we have become so fixated on Islamic Terrorism since September 11, 2001 that we have forgotten about domestic terrorism right here in the United States. Radical Islam and Western interests are commonly the topics of stateside conversation when it comes to terrorism yet domestic terrorists also pose a significant threat to our citizens. Does the U.S. need to do more to safeguard itself from the threat within?

In the past year we have seen deadly rampages at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and an Aurora, Colorado, theater. There was the mass shooting at the elementary school in Newtown Connecticut. We also have seen a former Los Angeles Police Officer dishonor his badge and his military service by going on a killing spree. All of these events have left communities and our nation grieving. It's important to note that the individuals who committed these vile acts were not necessarily terrorists. We do know that Michael Page who was the shooter at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin was an avowed white supremacist with anti-government views. In November of 2009 Major Nidal Hassan was radicalized in the United States by the now deceased American cleric Anwar Awlaki. Major Hassan went on a shooting rampage at Fort Hood Texas and shouted Allah Akbar before opening fire on his fellow soldiers. His mass shooting attack was labeled "workplace violence" and not terrorism. Regardless of where your stand on the issue of gun control we should take note that both of these men were motivated by radical ide-

ology and their actions raise questions about whether we're paying enough attention to domestic terrorism following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

To paraphrase the article, for many of us the attacks on September 11, 2001 have inadvertently become the measuring stick of terrorism by which everything else is judged and if the attack is not of that magnitude it somehow does not qualify as terrorism.

The reality is that domestic terrorism is as much a threat as foreign terrorism. As an Anti-Terrorism Officer I believe in some cases it is an even greater threat to us because of the ability the domestic terrorist has to move within our society without arousing suspicion.

The National Counterterrorism Center's Worldwide Incidents Tracking System publicly listed 35 terrorist incidents occurring in the United States between the beginning of 2004 and September 2011. Of those, 25 were linked to domestic terrorists.

The article further points out that a September 2011 survey by the New America Foundation and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Policy examined 114 cases of non-jihadist terrorist acts in the 10 years following 9/11. In comparison, they found 188 cases of Islamist terrorism in the U.S. for the same period. Some of the cases examined involved plots that were foiled and unsuccessful.

Some other examples of domestic terror cases since 9/11 cited in the article



included a 2001 plot by Earl Krugel, a member of the Jewish Defense League, to blow up the office of Arab-American congressman Darrell Issa and the King Fahd mosque in Culver City, California and the February 2010 suicide attack by Andrew Joseph Stack III, where he flew his airplane into the IRS building in Austin, Texas killing one other person and injuring many more.

As citizen airmen we need to be aware of the variety of threats we face. We must understand that some living in our own neighborhoods may hate everything that the uniform you wear represents. It's ok to disagree about all kinds of things in our nation. With that in mind we must be vigilant without paranoia. If you see or hear something that just isn't right you need to report it to your local law enforcement, SFS or AFOSI.

Be Safe and Be Aware

Capt. Steven Taylor

136AWATO

COMM: 817-852-3478

BB: 817-658-6132

DoD PD LE Desk: 817-782-5200

New **surcharge** on **Visa** purchases

1/31/2013 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- As of January 27, merchants in the United States and U.S. Territories are permitted to impose a surcharge on any credit card transaction that uses a MasterCard or Visa branded card, which includes the Government Travel Charge Card, both Individually Billed Accounts (IBAs) and Centrally Billed Accounts (CBAs).

This surcharge is permitted to be charged in all states except California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma and Texas.

While some merchants may elect not to charge this additional fee, those that do are required to notify customers before they make an actual purchase - at the store entrance and at the point of sale - or in an online environment, on the first page that references credit card brands. The surcharge will be included in the total transaction amount and will be listed separately on the sales receipt.

This new surcharge has been autho-



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christina Brownlow)

rized reimbursable expense while on official travel. The Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR) and the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) have been updated accordingly, effective 27 January 2013. If a traveler is charged this surcharge, they should add it as a separate expense under the Non-Mileage Expense section

of their voucher, ensuring that the additional surcharge is not also included in the total of the related expense.

For additional information about this new surcharge, go to: http://usa.visa.com/personal/using_visacards/checkout_fees/index.html

Did you know ... **myPers** can assist With your retirement process

Are you a Regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve or AF Civilian member nearing retirement eligibility and asking yourself, "Where do I begin?" The answer to that question is myPers.

The myPers website is a total force source for personnel information and services. It's available 24/7 and is where you can find answers to your questions and conduct personnel business online

when it is convenient for you.

To get started on your retirement quest, log on to the myPers website at mypers.af.mil. As myPers is personalized, the information you see upon entry is tailored to your Air Force affiliation. Once there navigate to the "Learn More About" section on the left side of the page and click on the "Retirement" link. Your component's Retirement Home

Page provides everything you need--from information on eligibility and the application process, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and relevant online service tools --to benefits/entitlements and other guidance you may need surrounding a retirement from service.

Go check it out!

mypers.af.mil

Wing Safety Snip-Its

Distracted driving

by Senior Master Sgt. Donald Seymore
136th Airlift Wing Safety Office/Ground Safety Manager

Ensuring the safety of all motorists on the roadways is the responsibility of every driver, and safe driving involves more than having two hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. The mind also must be focused on driving.

Consider the facts:

- Hands-free devices do not eliminate cognitive distraction – the distraction to the brain
- Cognitively distracted drivers can miss up to 50% of their driving environment, including stop signs, pedestrians and red lights
- Nearly 25% of all crashes involve drivers distracted by cell phones
- Drivers talking on cell phones-handheld or hands free are four times as likely to crash.

Drivers who text increase their likelihood of a crash by 8 to 23 times

Information source: National Safety Council www.nsc.org

Change the culture and curb cell phone use while driving:

- Make a personal commitment to drive cell free
- Research existing technology that prevents cell phone use while driving by holding your calls and messages and delivering them when you are finished driving
- Turn your phone off or put it on silent while driving so you are not tempted to answer it
- Speak up when you are in the car with someone who uses a cell phone while driving – ask if you can do it for them, or if it can wait
- Change your voicemail message to reflect that you are either away from your phone or driving, and that you'll call back when you can do so safely
- If you are talking to someone who hang up and call you later

Motorcycle Safety

Pre-Season Riding Checklist

*Make sure that the battery in the bike is fully charged.

*Drain the crankcase and refill it with new oil. Replace the oil filter if applicable.

*Check the engine coolant for proper level, replacing it if necessary.

*If the bike is chain driven, inspect the chain and drive sprockets for excessive wear or looseness. Replace or adjust as necessary.

*If the bike is shaft driven, inspect the oil level in the final drive unit to ensure it is filled to the proper level.

* Inspect the tires. Tires with cracks, bulges, or excessive wear should be replaced. Make sure that the tires are inflated to the manufacturers specifications.

* Inspect the brake pads or shoes. All late model bikes are equipped with wear indicators showing the degree of pad or shoe wear. Consult your owner's manual or local dealer if you are unsure of how to perform this check.

* If the bike is equipped with hydraulic brakes, check the fluid level to ensure it is at the proper level. Note that most manufacturers recommend changing this fluid at least once a season to eliminate moisture build up in the master brake cylinders, that can cause corrosion and eventual brake failure. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation on fluid type.

* Inspect all coolant hoses and brake lines for signs of deterioration or cracking. Replace if necessary.

**Questions, Comments, Concerns? Contact the
136th Safety Office at 817-852-3210.**

136th Safety Office

Chief of Safety:

Lt. Col John Buckler 817-852-3208

(alt) Major Marcus Gonzer 817-852-3028

Ground Safety Manager:

SMSgt Donald Seymore 817-852-3209

Safety Specialist:

MSgt Charles Migot

Administrative **action**

by Lt. Col. James Cattleman
136th Airlift Wing Executive Support Officer

The 136th Airlift Wing will be publicizing administrative actions throughout the entire Wing. For December 2012/January 2013 the following actions were taken:

CES

1. One Discharge - Unsatisfactory participation (AWOL)

FSS

1. Three LORs - Second fitness failure within 12 months
2. One LOR - GTC delinquency

SFS

1. One LOR - SNCO failure to progress in PME

LRS

1. One LOC - Failure to show fitness improvement
2. One LOC - Insubordination/unprofessionalism
3. One LOR - AWOL
4. One Demotion - GTC misuse/abuse
5. One Discharge - drug use

OG

1. Three LOR - GTC delinquency

AW Staff

1. One LOC - GTC delinquency

Misuse or abuse of the **GTC**

by Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Rodriguez
136th Comptroller Flight Superintendent

This time of the year we find our pockets a little shallower than usual. Though empty, we find innovative ways to spend the money we do not have, including illegal uses of our government travel card. A word to the wise, do not get tempted to misuse your GTC. If you misuse or abuse of your GTC, you may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action, as appropriate by your commander. Here are some of the examples of misuse of the GTC:

Government Travel Card Misuse/Abuse

- (a) expenses related to personal, family or household purposes,

- (b) cash withdrawals from ATMs or banks when not related to official Government travel requirements,

- (c) intentional failure to pay undisputed charges in a timely manner, and

- (d) ATM cash withdrawals taken more than three days prior to official Government travel.

For any questions regarding the proper use of your GTC contact your Unit agency program coordinator or call the 136th Comptroller Flight at 817-852-3250.

The 136th Airlift Wing is on Facebook!!

Visit the link below to "like" us...You don't even have to "friend" us to receive Wing updates for community events, discount tickets, free items such as sporting events, giveaways, special events, and photos of 136

AW Airmen in action. Stay tuned for inclement weather base closure information - now on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook/136AW>

3C3X1 - COMMAND POST
JIWOX2 - (5) COMBAT WEATHER
1A1X1 - (2) FLIGHT ENGINEER
1A2X1 - (3) LOADMASTER
3E4X1 - (2) WATER/FUEL SYSTEMS
3DOX3 - CYBER SYSTEMS SURETY
3E2X1 - (2) PAVE/CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
1POX1 (E-8/E9) - AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT
2T3X1 - VEHICLE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
2T2X1 - (2) AIR TRANSPORTATION
2A5X1 - (2) AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE
2A6X5 - (2) AIRCRAFT HYDRAULICS
1C7X1 - AIRFIELD MANAGEMENT
3MOX1 - (2) SERVICES
3N1X1 - REGIONAL BAND

Officer Billets please visit www.agd.state.tx.us or Texas Military Forces for officer vacancies.