# Buckeye Flyer

Volume 44, No. 5 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio May 2005

Staff Sgt. Rob Caskey drills into a metal plate on a C-141 right wing flap during the 445th Maintenance Squadron's last C-141 isochronal inspection. (*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller*)

## C-141 ISO inspections come to an end

by Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller 445th Public Affairs

The 445th Maintenance Squadron is finishing their last isochronal (ISO) inspection on the wing's C-141s. The squadron is seeing an old friend retire, but will be picking up a new mission, the C-5 Galaxy, without losing a step.

Master Sgt. Darrell Scott, one of the lead ISO supervisor/ technicians at 445th MXS, said that the transition from C-141s to C-5s will take about three years with all the training and the construction of hangers in which to park the planes. "This is something we can handle," said Tech. Sgt. Jerry Ewing, a sheet metal journeyman with the structures section of the squadron. "This new mission should be challenging; there's a lot more aircraft to deal with. We've done a real good job of keeping the C-141's flying."

"This is indeed a time that invokes many emotional memories for our maintainers as the aircraft is in superb mechanical shape and with-in 14 months the last aircraft will make a final flight to

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#### A month to remember

by Capt. James Fisher 445th Airlift Wing Chaplain

May is a very special month to Americans. It is a time for us to remember the commitment and sacrifice given by Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers throughout our nation's history.

Today, we enjoy the freedom that faithful men and women have so valiantly secured for us. Memorial Day provides an official opportunity for us to commemorate those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our way of life. May 30, along with every calendar day, should be a time of deep reflection and sincere appreciation.

Thousands of warriors are faithfully serving our country, willingly placing themselves in harm's way for love of country. Truly, freedom has been and will always be, costly.

I find May to be an annual opportunity to grasp again the reality and fragility of life. In addition to Memorial Day, Mother's Day is also special to me. May marks the fifteenth anniversary of my mother's death. As Mother's Day, May 8, approaches, memories swirl through my mind and heart. My soul smiles with gratitude to God for the wonderful gift of mothers.

We need months like May. Special days like Memorial Day and Mother's Day help us stop the busyness of life, if even for just a moment, to meditate and count our many blessings. Let us find comforting peace in Jesus' words, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

#### How many stars are needed for a Galaxy?

by Col. James Blackman 445th Operations Group Commander

The Galaxy is coming. The Lockheed-

Martin C-5A Galaxy, that is. Our wing is slated to receive 11 of our nation's largest aircraft starting later this year. The Galaxy will replace our venerable and beloved Starlifters, and we will move on to the next chapter of our wing's journey through the airpower cosmos.

Astronomical are its attributes. The aircraft weighs nearly three-quarters of a

million pounds when fully loaded. Ramp shade shall be abundant under its 222 feet, 9 inch wing span, a length of 247 feet, 10 inches, and its tail height of 65 feet. The Galaxy will hold up to 240,000 pounds of payload in its cargo hold and will carry 73 passengers in the rear upper deck. Maximum fuel capacity is 332,500 pounds or 51,450 gallons (lets see, at \$2.35 a gallon for unleaded . . . ?) which can move the Galaxy over 6,300 nautical miles without refueling.

What will it take for us to exist in this Galaxy's galaxy? Well, for starters we will need to construct four new buildings and modify a host of other places. We need to expand our aircraft parking ramp and build a more robust refueling infrastructure. Several of our existing facilities will need to be demolished. The initial cost for facilities will be nearly \$60 million.

Everything is big. We will need a host of bigger support equipment – bigger tow vehicles, bigger stands, bigger everything.

What else will it take to run this galaxy? We will need stars for this Galaxy, of course, and those stars are people. The Galaxy requires a crew of at least six stars and we will need 30 of those star crews. We will need stars to train, schedule, manage, administer, brief, and otherwise work with the crew stars. I think we will need an operations group with



Col. James Blackman

nearly 500 stars. Oh boy, will we need a lot of maintenance group stars, six or seven hundred, at least. We will surely need a variety of stars to keep our personnel, aerial port, engineering, security, communications, services and other support programs up to the large task. I guess we will need a mission support group with five or six hundred stars as well. This many stars will certainly need a few hundred medical stars to keep them bright and variety of wing staff stars to keep them all moving in the right orbit. We're going to need more than 2.000 stars to make up this Galaxy. Where can we find them? We are in luck. We just happen to already have 2,000 stars already in our sky - you and your fellow citizen airmen. Are we ready for the astronomical new task? The answer is in the stars.

## Buckeye Flyer Vol. 44 No. 05

445th Airlift Wing (U.S. Air Force Reserve Command) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

U.S. Government Printing Office 5-00001-445AW

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### Traveling to the badlands to do some good

by Maj. Ted Theopolos 445th Public Affairs

A disaster doesn't have to strike for Americans to help other Americans in need.

Twelve reservists from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron here traveled to south central South Dakota to work at the Rosebud Indian Reservation Hospital April 2-16. They gave medical care to their hosts while doing their annual training tour.

Located 35 miles north of the Nebraska border, the reservation is the home to 30,000 Native Americans of the Lakota Sioux. The Sioux know this land as *mako sica*. Translated into English it means "badlands."

Although small, the hospital serves the community well. It has 35 beds, two operating rooms and an emergency room. The Rosebud Indian Reservation medical facility gets about 60,000 outpatient visits a year. More than 5,000 patients require priority one care.

"Life expectancy here is only 47 years old," said Col. Karen Nagafuchi, a nurse and deployed commander. Compared to the rest of the nation, that is one of the worst life expectancy statistics inside the U.S. borders.

"The predominate problems here are heart disease, diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis and depression," said Col. Nagafuchi. "The infant mortality rate is very high compared to the nation."

The Air Force Reserve Command medical team consists of medical administrative and logistics people, emergency room and public health nurses, emergency medical technicians, and a dietician.

"Since we've been here, our four EMTs have been on 29 patient transports," said Col. Nagafuchi.

"On one of the emergency runs a Reserve EMT assisted with the birth of a baby girl," said Maj. Raymond Mick, chief nurse for the deployment.

On another emergency run, the reservists transported an individual who had been kicked by a horse.

"We've been kept quite busy with little time off," said Maj. Mick.



Master Sgt. Melanie LaLiberty of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, teaches cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to a staffer at Rosebud Indian Reservation Hospital. About 150 people signed up to take the course taught by Air Force reservists. (Courtesy photo by Senior Airman Beth Howard)

With low pay and few attractions to draw qualified medical people, the hospital welcomes the military.

"Respect for the military is high here," said Col. Nagafuchi.

Diabetes is prevalent in Native Americans on the reservation.

"Our dietary technician has been doing preventive clinics teaching dietetic skills to patients as well as the staff," said Col. Nagafuchi.

"The logistic person has helped inventory supplies, and our medical administrative people have helped process over 3,000 claims which mean reimbursement to the hospital," said the Colonel.

Two nurses worked in the ER and taught cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the hospital staff for their recertification.

In addition, nurses helped with home visits to assist with medical care.

"We are just not in the hospital, we're out in the community doing public health visits," said the Colonel.

The nurses monitored the elderly by screening their weight, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. They ensured the patients took their medications correctly. The visits included stops to screen pregnant women. Also, the nurses worked to help create a data base to keep track of patients.

"On one of our nurse's visit, we helped a patient who was in congestive heart failure," she said. "They called for an ambulance to transport the person to the hospital."

Col. Nagafuchi said it was challenging for the reservists to work as a team in such a short period of time.

"But most of the reservists said this was one of the best tours they have been," she said. (AFRC News Service)



## Switching gears

## Employers of Airmen get a taste of reservists' unit missions

by Senior Airman Nicole Talbert 445th Public Affairs

Approximately 37 employers of the wing's Citizen Airmen participated in the annual Employer Recognition Day April 2, in support of the unit's mission and involvement with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The event, co-sponsored by the wing commander and the Ohio State Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, allows reservists to nominate their supervisor for a day to better understand the roles and responsibilities a reservist must maintain outside their full-time job.

Staff Sgt. Heidi Johnston from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron nominated Brian Scott Wess, a firefighter and paramedic of Jackson Township Fire Department, Grove City, Ohio. Johnston is a firefighter but has not yet graduated from paramedic school. She accompanies her supervisor on paramedic rides and helps in patient care.

Unlike past events, this year's event permitted the reservists to escort their



As if the employers have been called to duty, Senior Master Sgt. Joseph J. Smith from the 445th Maintenance Squadron, explaines how the mobility line prepares the reservists for deployment during Employer Recognition Day. (Photos by Senior Airman Nicole Talbert)

employers throughout the day's activities, which included processing through a mobility line as if the employers were deploying.

Employers first arrived at the base's Mobility Center, and after being issued dog tags, they preceded through a seven station mock mobility line. Immunizations were given, legal and finance advice was provided, family support counsel and chaplain assistance was available,

emergency data information was collected, and manifest reports were taken.

Before the morning briefings got started Col. Bruce Davis, 445th Airlift Wing commander, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support and expressed we couldn't perform our mission without their support. The morning continued with two briefings, one from the Ohio ESGR and a wing

### C-141 ISO inspections

Continued from Cover

the desert," said Col. Robert Hunter, 445th Maintenance Group commander. "Everyone understands it is necessary to end the career of the C-141, as costs are escalating and newer designs offer many long-term advantages to the Air Force."

Teams of 20 will leave Wright-Patt for 30-day TDY's for training at two Air Force Reserve wings that currently fly the C-5; the 433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, and the 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. The TDY rotation is expected to continue for up to three years until the new hanger is completed here.

"We should be pretty checked out by that time," said Master Sgt. Dean Collingwood, another one of the ISO lead supervisor/technicians at 445th MXS. "While we are at Lackland and Westover we'll be augmenting their work force and be working on their planes and some of ours."

Groups from 445th MXS' sheet metal shop, hydraulics shop, engine repair, aero-repair and more will rotate to the two bases. After the training is done and the hanger construction here is complete, 445th MXS will be set to roll in the first C-5.

Even though the C-5 is a much larger aircraft with thousands of parts not found on a C-141, Master Sgt. Collingwood estimates that it will take no longer to inspect with increased manpower. He speculated that a complete inspection would take between 35 to 40 days, about the same time needed for the C-141.

All but the newest members of 445th MXS have extensive backgrounds in aircraft maintenance; however, just a few have worked on C-5's. In three years that will change in a big way.



mission briefing with slides from a recent aeromedical evacuation mission from Iraq.

The fun stuff started when the employers left in two groups. As one group visited the base's new Combat Arms Training Facility where active and reserves train, the other group visited the C-141 Simulator Trainer. Employers like Ron Semro, from St. Paul Travelers insurance company, respected the need to have such equipment as the simulator.

"It all means something very important," he said. "It was wonderful. It made you feel like you were flying until you turned around to look out the (simulator) door."

Mr. Semro was nominated by Capt. Sheryl Schwartzkopf from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Capt. Schwartzkopf remarked similarly to the simulator training.

"I thought it was absolutely awesome, she said. "I've been in the reserves for nine years but being in the aeromedical evacuation squadron we don't get to be in the simulator."

While some were busy flying, others were treated to a show and tell by Tech. Sgt. Charles Childers from the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron who put out a display of military chemical protective gear. Most were interested in the gas mask.

#### "In my opinion, what these reservists do makes them the true heroes"

- Brian Scott Wess, firefighter and paramedic of Jackson Township Fire Department, Grove City, Ohio

After the employers got their wings at the simulator, the groups switched locations. At the combat arms building employers were given a terrorist briefing by Senior Master Sgt. Jon Leist from the 445th Security Forces Squadron. Sgt. Leist has been in the security business over 35 years. They also got to see a few weapons that security forces train on as well as the state of the art indoor shooting range.

Because of bad weather and high winds, the flight for the day was cancelled. But no matter, employers were treated to a special tour at the Isodock hangar. Employers learned that this maintenance hanger operates to tear aircraft down every 420 days for a comprehensive inspection. Maintenance members primarily check for structural cracks. As the employers walked inside the aircraft, the reservists explained aircraft functions and capabilities. Employers observed the last C-141 going through an inspection. The fleet is scheduled to be retired by early next year.

The last stop of the day was for lunch and a briefing at the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron by Col. Allen Gilbar, their squadron commander. Employers were treated to lunch, courtesy of the Ohio ESGR. They also got some hands on with some of the medical equipment that reservists use on patients when flying aeromedical missions.

Before departing, employers were handed a bag of goodies to remember the day and thanked once more for their support of their employee's choice to be part of our nation's national defense.



Maj. Carlotta Webb from 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron points to the aircraft structure explaining its capabilities to her supervisor Margaret Mays. Brian Wess, another employer stands by and absorbs the information.



Staff Sgt. Heidi Johnston, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and her supervisor, Brian Wess, a firefighter and paramedic of Jackson Township, practice flying under the direction of Maj. David Pond from the 89th Airlift Squadron, during simulator training.

## Maintainers tackle a smaller scale C-141

by Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller 445th Public Affairs

There's a pristine six foot model of the Hanoi Taxi hanging in building 4021 that members of the 445th Maintenance Squadron recently worked on. The project was a little different than the usual fare – maintaining a full size C-141. The detail is impeccable, and the paint and decals, flawless.

"It took our team of 10 people about 36 hours to complete the project," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Bullucks, 445th Maintenance Squadron.

"The idea was to get it exactly like the original," said fellow maintenance squadron member and team member Tech. Sgt. Jerry Newell.

The model isn't stretched like the real plane on the flightline, Sgt. Newell said, but it does have the authentic 1960s paint scheme.

The model of the C-141, used for displays, parades and public events, wears the exact paint scheme and markings it had when it landed at the Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi, North Vietnam, on Feb. 12, 1973. The Starlifter was the first aircraft to airlift American POW's to freedom from North Vietnam at the start of Operation Homecoming.

"It's not really a model," said Tech. Sgt. Kevin Dawson, another one of the maintenance squadron members who worked on the plane. "It's solid formed, and one piece."

It's heavy, too. About 40 pounds, Sgt. Bullucks guessed. "She's got some weight to her."

The plane is a composite of fiberglass, resin and other materials, Sgt. Bullucks said.

During its long career, C-141 tail number 66-0177 has carried



(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Kevin Dawson, Staff Sgt. Aaron Bullucks, and Tech. Sgt. Jerry Newell, all assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing, stand under the model of the Hanoi Taxi they help refurbish, paint and decorate. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller)

vital cargo all over the world. However, on that February day there was a very special cargo - the first 40 American POWs were flown to freedom.

Today this aircraft is assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and is still flying.

The Hanoi Taxi's name comes from the writing on the flight engineer's panel by the POW's aboard the plane for the freedom flight. Signatures of the freed prisoners have been preserved on the panel over the years and are the centerpiece of what is essentially a "flying museum." Plaques, documents, and photographs of the homecoming are part of the on-board exhibit researched and created by the 445th AW. Etchings of the names of those missing in action were taken from the Vietnam Wall in Washington and are mounted on the plane.



## 87th Aerial Port unloads a C-5 for the museum

An 87th Aerial Port member, Staff Sgt. William Castle, is operating a 60K Tunner to unload a Sopwith Pup airplane from a C-5 Galaxy at Wright-Patt. The airplane is to be on permanent display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force located here. The crated WW I era replica was delivered to Wright-Patt by aircrew from Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller)

#### Welcome and Congratulations!

#### **Promotions**

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.

#### Airman

Gregory Coryell, 445 MXG

#### **Airman First Class**

Jamar Brown, 445 ASTS Katrina Rizzio, 445 ASTS Jacob Stenger, 445 CES

#### Senior Airman

Amber Belcher, 445 AES
Casie Cain, 445 ASTS
Kevin Fackler, 445 CLSS
Derek Gibson, 445 AMXS
Michael Goody, 87 APS
Benjamin Middlesworth, 87
APS
Jimmy Montalvo Jr., 445 ASTS
Clifford Moore, 445 AMXS
Jacob Nelson, 445 AMXS
Chad Ramey, 87 APS
Jonathan Reiter, 87 APS

Robert Sites, 87 APS

Caitlin Sumner, 445 ASTS Amber Wooley, 445 AW

#### **Technical Sergeant**

Gregory Kern, 445 MXS

#### **Master Sergeant**

Timothy Emberton, 445 MOF James Sullenberger, 445 ASTS

#### **Chief Master Sergeant**

\*Spelling correction to last month's issue \*Larry Osborne, 445 ASTS

#### Captain

Lauren Hale, 445 ASTS

#### Major

Rachael Daulton, 356 AS Robert Ehrenborg, 89 AS William Phillis Jr., 89 AS Michael Ponder, 445 SVF Amy Swets, 445 ASTS Richard Wartenberg, 356 AS

#### Colonel

Bradford Tammaro, 445 AW

#### **Awards**

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

#### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Dennis Crago, 445 OG Lt. Col Eileen Kelly, 445 AW Lt. Col. Matthew Meintel, 445 OSS Lt. Col Jeffrey Todd, 445 OSS Maj. Michael Brandenburg, 445 CF Maj. Christopher Cunningham, 445 CES

Maj Peter Mychalishyn Jr., 445 OSS

Maj. Daniel Witt, 89 AS
CMSgt. Randy Miller, 445 OG
SMSgt. Stephen Bell, 445 OSS
SMSgt. John Mills, 445 OSS
SMSgt. Douglas Rihm, 445 OSS
SMSgt. Bruce Waring, 356 AS
MSgt. Marc Gibson, 445 OSS
MSgt. Michael Johnston, 445 MSG
MSgt. Robert Naehring, 445 OSS
MSgt. Jeffery Vaughn, 356 AS
TSgt. Charles Braun, 87 APS
TSgt. Forrest Greenwood, 445
MXS

#### **Newcomers**

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

Capt. Michael Egan, 445 LRS MSgt. Michael Hartberger, 445 ACF

TSgt. Joseph Shepherd, 445 CF SSgt. Stacey Blurton, 445 ASTS SSgt. Harry Hill III, 445 CF SrA Michael Nowicke, 445 LRS SrA Travis Reeves, 445 MXS SrA Michael Wright, 445 SFS A1C Nathaniel Jourdan, 87 APS A1C Travis Lenhoff, 445 AMXS A1C John Shanaberg, 445 AMXS A1C Benjamin Underwood, 445 AMXS

Amn Benjamin Middlesworth, 87 APS

Amn Briann Newmann, 445 AMDS Amn Katrina Rizzio, 445 ASTS AB Jeremy Conley, 445 AMXS AB Dusty Grimes, 445 CES AB Rosetta Mendoza, 445 LRS

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

TRICARE: Your Military Health Plan



#### New health plan extends care for activated reservists

WASHINGTON – Health care for reservists gets a booster shot April 25. That's when a premium-based health care plan starts for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced Tricare Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference March 24.

"We are committed to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world's best fighting force," said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It's similar to Tricare Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75. A reservist and family pays \$233. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agreement with Air

Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty. If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment. For example, reservists with 360 days of qualifying active duty can get four years of coverage if they sign up for four years in the Selected Reserve.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums.

The Tricare Web site – <a href="www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/">www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/</a> reserveselect – will have more details. To get updates by email, reservists and their families can subscribe to <a href="www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/">www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/</a>.

For reservists enrolled in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, coverage will start the day after TAMP ends. (AFRC News Service)



## Mark your Calendars

## Register now for Kids Camp

Camp Wright-Patt, Operation Purple, will be held July 24 - 29, 2005 and is open for children ages 10-15.

Priority will go first to children whose parents are deployed, second are children whose parents are activated, third to children of reservists, and fourth to children that have attended the camp in the past.

The camp is funded by the National Military Family Association and will offer a fantastic experience for 140 military children in this area.

The camp will be at 4-H Camp Graham near Clarksville, Ohio, and will include a day at either the 445th or the 178th, canoeing, ropes course, rocketry, creek hiking / fossiling, service projects plus camp activities. The camp will provide 4-H counselors, all meals, a lifeguard, a nurse, a naturalist, and an arts/crafts director. The camp is looking for military members to help in areas of leadership.

If you are interested in helping or need an application for a child, please contact Tech. Sgt. Angie Burritt, 445th Family Support office at 656-1502.

#### Last chance for Military Ball tickets

The 445th Military Ball is Saturday, May 14, 2005, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Social hour starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets from your First Sergeant for \$30 for enlisted and \$35 for officers.



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#### Four careers fly into retirement

Lt. Col. Kirk A. Baker, Commander of the 445th Formal Training Unit, 445th OSS, retires after a 37-year career in the Air Force. Col. Baker was commissioned through Officer Training School in 1968. He has served as the 356th Operations Officer, the 89th Airlift Squadron Operations Officer, and was named commander of the 445th FTU in 2001. He has been in the Air Force Reserve for 30 years.





Lt. Col. Dennis L. Crago, the 445th Operations Group Deputy Commander, retires from 36 years in the Air Force. Col. Crago received his commission through the Air Force ROTC program in 1969. He was assigned to the 356th Tactical Airlift Squadron when he joined the Air Force Reserve in 1974.

Lt. Col. Dennis L. Crago



Lt. Col. Jeffrey E. Todd, Chief of Training for the Formal Training Unit, 445th Operation Support Squadron, retires after a 38-year career in the Air Force. Col. Todd has been a reservist for 32 years. He was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC in 1967. Col. Todd has logged over 10,000 flight hours in both civilian and military aviation.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey E. Todd



Senior Master Sgt. Bruce H. Waring retires after 38 years in the Air Force Reserve. Sgt. Waring made his career as a loadmaster in the 356th Airlift Squadron. Sgt. Waring has logged over 7,700 hours with the C-119, C-123, C-130, and C-141 aircraft. He has spent the last year working as a senior instructor loadmaster here.

Senior Master Sgt. Bruce H. Waring



(Courtesy Photos by Master Sgt. Larry Stulz)

