

Reservist reflects on Desert Storm 25 years later

By Maj. Elizabeth Caraway
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Courtesy photo

Airman First Class Jim Highland enhances his unit's shelter fortification while assigned to the 1st Aircraft Generation Squadron, 1st Tactical Fighter Wing (Provisional), King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. During Desert Storm, Highland's home station was the 27th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, 27th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Virginia.

"I was sitting in the base theater, watching *Cadillac Man*, and about 20 minutes before the end of the movie, they turned it off, turned on the house lights, and told us to return to our duty stations. We had to prep aircraft for deployment."

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Highland, 445th Military Personnel Flight superintendent, was 19 and had only been on active duty for three months when his Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, unit was tasked to deploy in support of Operation Desert Storm. An aircraft maintainer for F-15C/Ds, Highland's first time on a flight line was in May 1990 but that August he found himself flying overseas in the jump seats of a C-141.

Despite his self-declaration that he is "terrible with

dates," Highland easily recalled landing at 0430 on Aug. 11, 1990.

"They dropped us off at a lean-to shack on a flight line, in the dark, with nothing but a toolbox, a flashlight, and five jets. I'd been to tech school, but I had such limited experience."

For the next seven months of his deployment, Highland gained that experience, learning about aircraft maintenance, deployed life, and cultural differences. He worked 12-hour shifts six days a week.

"We would launch the aircraft, wait for it to return, then get it ready to launch again," he said. "It was constant turn and burn."

During the long wait times, he learned Spades and Hearts and played Risk and chess. The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation tent offered books and a TV showing sports games. At the start of his deployment, Highland was in a dorm, sleeping in a 30-man bay with about 18 inches in between beds.

Desert Storm started before email became commonplace.

"We were lucky to get one phone call a week, and the phones were unreliable, so calls were constantly being dropped," said Highland. "I got off base once during my deployment and it was for about 2 hours to a mall."

He also learned more about Muslim cultural differences, citing a time when a fellow Airman attempted to sign some paperwork for a Saudi contractor using his left hand, much to the offense of the contractor.

Highland admits none of the Airmen seemed to appreciate the significance of the operation in the beginning.

"For the first five months, all we ever heard was that we're leaving in three days," said Highland. "In the beginning, I don't think any of us realized how significant, how huge it was going to be. The U.S. went to Panama when I was in tech school and it was all over fairly quickly, so I think that's what I thought Desert Storm would be like. After we'd been there a while, and after Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather showed up, it was clear that we were making history."

When Highland returned stateside in March, his unit was met planeside by generals, sign-toting crowds, and cheering applause.

"After the notoriety of Vietnam—which we'd heard about a great deal—it was a tremendous relief to have a positive reception and feel appreciated," he said.

Wing members encouraged to complete UEI survey by March 2

By Col. Jeffrey J. McGalliard
445th Airlift Wing Commander

As we continue to prepare for our CAPSTONE (Unit Effectiveness Inspection) in June, I'd like to encourage ALL wing members, both military and civilian to complete the UEI survey.

Part of our CAPSTONE inspection includes the opportunity to answer survey questions for the Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General that will help them tailor interviews many of our Airmen will participate in during the IG visit.

While nobody in our wing understands better than I do, how much time we already spend on ancillary training and administration, to include surveys, I will encourage you to spend the few minutes needed to complete this one.

If you're proud of our wing and

your important role in getting our mission done, I ask you to be frank and honest on the survey. I can't fix what I don't know is broken, and the IG can't take those concerns back to the MAJCOM unless you share them.

Please use the link below to complete the survey by close of business March 2: <https://www.research.net/r/445AW>.

AFRC IG notable items to remember when completing the survey include:

- The survey will only take about 20 minutes to complete.
- Be honest with your answers. It will make the results more meaningful for the 445th.
- All of the information you provide is protected in IG channel. None of the data will be released outside of

HQ AFRC/IG or SAF/IG.

- If you are a civilian employee, please indicate you are a "Department of the Air Force civilian" at the appropriate question.
- We value the opinions of your spouses, and have developed questions for them. Feel free to forward the survey to them.
- Your honest and candid answers mean a lot to the AFRC/IG and the success of the new Air Force Inspection System. This is your chance to tell HQ AFRC/IG what you think about any issue. Inform them about what is working well, and highlight what isn't working well within your organization.

Many thanks for your professionalism and partnership in improving the finest Airlift wing in our Air Force.

Happy Valentine's Day, show love all year long

By Chaplain (Capt.) Job Morales
445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps

As you know, February is a time we think of loved ones and we celebrate Valentine's Day. However, are you aware that Valentine's Day is also known as Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine which is observed on February 14 of each year?

Millions of people take part in celebrating this blissful day in various countries around the world.

So, what's the background? During the reign of Emperor Claudius II, Rome was involved in several bloody conflicts and unpopular campaigns that he found it difficult to recruit soldiers. Claudius II felt the reason men did not join the army was due in part to men not wanting to leave their wives and families, so he cancelled all marriages and engagements. Saint Valentine, a romantic at heart and who loved his countrymen, defied Claudius' order by secretly marrying couples before the soldiers headed into war. When he was discovered, he was brutally beaten and put to death on February 14th. Later he was named a Saint for his love and devotion to his compatriots and his display of bravery and courage for his fellow citizens.

This Valentine's Day many of us will celebrate this special and joyous occasion by demonstrating our love, admiration and appreciation toward our spouses, significant others, children and loved ones by way of cards, candies, flowers and special acts of service.

During this month my desire is for all of us here at the 445th to go beyond the Valentine's Day routine by demonstrating love toward our fellow Airmen.

All people, all Airmen need to know that they are loved and valued. As a member of the 445th, please know that you matter to our team!

Simple acts of kindness go a long way. Try a simple pat on the back to a teammate followed by a "thank you for all your hard work you put into this unit" or "we appreciate your dedication here at the 445th."

Take the time to write an Airman a personal card or letter indicating gratitude for completing a project early or exceeding standards. Set aside time to sit down with an Airman and congratulate him or her for a task well done; this does wonders to build relationships and encourages future outstanding performance.

It is important Airmen know that without them the 445th would not be able to accomplish its mission and at the same time expressing a loving attitude to each other makes this a great place to work.

So, don't forget to do something special for Valentine's Day for your loved ones and also remember to show love for our Airmen year round.

The chaplain staff and I wish you a blessed Valentine's Day and we love you.



445 AW left mark during Desert Shield/Desert Storm

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As the Nation and Air Force reflects back on the 25th Anniversary of Desert Storm, the men and women of the 445th Airlift Wing that served during this time were key contributors who earned a spot in history.

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Almost immediately, local proficiency training took a back seat to the real world mission of the wing deploying troops and equipment in support of Operation Desert Shield. There was an initial surge of troops and equipment reflected in the hours flown from a scheduled 1069.6 to actually flying 2,233.3 hours for August 1990 alone.

On January 16, 1991, Desert Shield became Desert Storm and the air attacks of Iraq began. The military was already mobilizing many Reserve and Guard units including a number of the wing's personnel. To support this mass mobilization effort, the wing flew more than 2,500 hours January 1991 and peaked in February with almost 3,700 hours.

On February 23, 1991, the ground forces assaulted Iraq for 100 hours ending on February 27. Over the next few months, the flying squadrons continued to fly support missions stateside and to the Middle East. They also flew many missions to redeploy troops back to the states. By the end of July 1991, most of the mobilized troops were home.

During the 12 months ending on July 31, 1991, the wing flew a total of 25,346.4 hours, which was equivalent to 425 percent of their pre-scheduled hours. Aircrews flew 16,051.5 of those hours from the first of January to the end of May, or 823 percent of their pre-scheduled hours.

From August 8, 1990 to June 11, 1991, aircrews flew 441 missions for a total of 21,393.7 hours in direct support of Operations Desert Shield and Storm. The wing deployed more than 200 Airmen from the 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to form medical crews consisting of two nurses and five technicians. These crews were deployed to several bases throughout England and Germany. The 445th also deployed more than 100 people from the 42nd Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadron into the theater of operations.

Although the 906th Fighter Group was not called up as a group to support Desert Storm, requests for individual volunteers from the 401st Combat Logistics Support Squadron came down with the squadron offering 104 volunteers. Based on the need for only certain job specialties, the Air Force activated 18 of those volunteers. In total, 486 members – almost 38 percent – of

the 906th TFG volunteered for active duty in support of Desert Shield. Prior to December 14, 1990, all wing personnel involved in the operation were volunteers.

The following reflects all deployed troops from the 445th Military Airlift Wing and where they went:

- 42nd Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadron, 113 people, mobilized December 14, 1990 to March 8, 1991 to Southwest Asia
- 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 207 people, mobilized January 21 – March 14, 1991 to Europe and Southwest Asia
- 445th Airlift Control Flight, 8 people, mobilized March 11-June 5, 1991, stateside
- 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, 30 people, mobilized January 19 – May 15, 1991, stateside
- 445th Combat Support Squadron, 2 people, mobilized February 15 – March 8, 1991, assisted their active duty counterparts in the transportation, fuels and administrative areas
- 445th Security Police Flight, 44 people, mobilized January 24 – April 11, 1991, home station
- 445th USAF Clinic (Associate), 83 people, mobilized January 25 – March 8, 1991, home station
- 729th Military Airlift Squadron, 191 people, mobilized February 24 – June 15, 1991, home station
- 730th Military Airlift Squadron, 193 people, mobilized February 19 – June 15, 1991, home station
- The 40th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron and the 87th Aerial Port Squadron filled in to help with the giant airlift of the operations

More than 250 Airmen from five units attached to the 907th Tactical Airlift Group deployed to Southwest Asia from January 25 to June 14, 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm. While in Southwest Asia, the group worked alongside other Military Airlift Command units to shuttle Desert Storm cargo and personnel around the theater on C-130 Hercules aircraft. The 356th Tactical Airlift Squadron (deployed) flew more than 2,000 sorties, compiling more than 3,600 flight hours. The unit hauled more than 4,400 tons of cargo and transported more than 13,000 passengers in performance of its wartime mission.

Following the cessation of hostilities, the wing's flying squadrons continued to fly support missions stateside and to the Middle East, but they also flew many missions to redeploy troops back to the states. The 906th conducted 16 deployments, six of which were in support of Desert Storm, either as back-fill for deployed active duty or for direct logistics and maintenance support.



DESERT STORM, from page 1

Highland cites Desert Storm as personally life-changing.

“Desert Storm was one of the most significant experiences I’ve had in the military and a defining point in my life,” stated Highland. “The need for preparation really made an impression on me, and in my job as MPF superintendent now, I want to make sure our Airmen are prepared for whatever contingency they may encounter.”

Highland remembered donning his chem gear during a Scud attack early on, panicking and becoming disoriented as he pulled on his boots. An experienced tech sergeant came over and very calmly helped him finish, urging him to keep his cool.

“Now, I emphasize readiness in our unit. Even though Airmen might not need to know Personnel Support for Contingency Operations (PERSCO) duties on a typical drill weekend, it’s a focus area. I want our Airmen to be better prepared than I was.”

Highland said that the evolution of Air Force training in general has been dramatic.

“Our new recruits come in better equipped all the time. They just amaze me every day with their technical acumen and skill.”



Courtesy photo

Airmen returning to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, after serving in Desert Storm are greeted by family and friends with a special homecoming celebration on the flightline in March 1991.

Make plans to reduce slips, trips, falls in your workplace BEFORE they happen!

By Chris Tirey

88th Air Base Wing Safety

Life in the Miami Valley has changed as the mild temperatures of fall yielded to the brutal weather conditions that Ohio winters generate. This period routinely produces a significant number of slips, trips and falls (STFs), the perpetual leading source of lost workday injuries.

Naturally, the injured party suffers, but the negative impact extends well beyond them. The unexpected absence of a single person as they convalesce can have a large impact on those personnel compensating for their teammate’s absence. Now is the time to take oncoming weather conditions into consideration and make preparations to minimize the occurrence of STFs this winter.

Here are some strategies worthy of consideration:

Review snow removal plans, discuss walkway preparation requirements as well as supplies with your Real Property Building Manager (RPBM). If they need resources or support, facilitate it!

Consider designating a primary inclement weather entrance/exit to focus initial surface preparation efforts.

Communication with organizational personnel is key. The RPBM must be made aware of any icy surfaces at entrances/exits or wet interior surfaces as quickly as possible. All personnel (including visitors) must also be notified immediately so they know to avoid the potential hazard until it is corrected. This might involve having a cone, sign or other visual cue placed in the area and those should be readily available.

All personnel must take advantage of alternate parking locations or pedestrian travel routes any time a less hazardous walking surface is available.

Stress the need to select footwear that is suited to the outdoor walking surface rather than the indoor destination. Bringing along an extra pair of shoes for the duty location or the purchase of one of the many inexpensive items that slip over the wearer’s shoe and provide a high degree of traction are options to consider.

All of these principles apply at home (where YOU are the RPBM) as well. Make sure you have salt/ice melter and pretreat your walking

surfaces when warranted. Inspect your snow shovel/snow blower before you need it to ensure it is in good condition. Footwear must be slip resistant. Take your time as you work and don’t exceed your physical limitations—snow removal is a physically strenuous activity.

Apply these recommendations and work together to remove or avoid unnecessary STF risks this winter. We all benefit when lost workday injuries decrease in their frequency and severity. Make this the winter your home and organizational STF prevention plans are the best ever!

Buckeye Flyer

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Reservists key to Get 1 Now recruiting program

By Maj. Elizabeth Caraway
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A defining characteristic and key strength of the Air Force Reserve is the unique and diverse skill sets in its members. Our Airmen serve in a vast array of civilian career fields. Some have served on active duty in the Air Force. The 445th Recruiting Office gets to see it all, speaking with people from all walks of life and guiding them through the process of joining military service.

Master Sgt. Vincent Majors, a line recruiter, came from another career field and has found the job to be “an exciting experience.”

“I love this job. Every day offers something different. There is no ‘typical’ day,” said Majors.

In addition to following up with leads, searching for placements, and coordinating substantial amounts of paperwork and appointments, recruiters often speak at schools, clubs, and special events.

Majors said the recruiters are in a type of ambassador role. “When potential recruits come in, we not only represent the unit, we are the face of the Air Force Reserve, the face of the military.”

Now Airmen, too, have the opportunity to help guide family and friends to the Reserve through the online Get 1 Now site, <https://get1now.us/>.

The Get 1 Now program encourages reservists to recommend qualified people with whom they wish to serve. If your referral joins the Air Force Reserve, you get credit for an accession and become eligible for awards like coolers, laptop sleeves, and clothing.

“Some of our best reservists come from reservists,” said Senior Master Sgt. Yvette Larson, senior recruiter. “Reservists refer friends and civilian co-workers. If you work with them well in your civilian job, you could work with them well in the Reserve.”

Recruiters from the 445th AW place recruits at multiple area locations, for example Grissom Air Reserve Base, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, and Wright-Patterson AFB.

Although most career fields in the wing are open to hires, the recruiting office is actively seeking to fill positions in aerospace medicine, intelligence, aircrew, and aeromedical evacuation.

Considerations include age (17-39 for non-prior service), prior arrests, drug use, citizenship (at least two years required on a green card), overall health,



Tech. Sgt. Frank Oliver

and “conscientious objections”—religious, moral or personal reasons a person will not or cannot use weapons in a military capacity.

Unfortunately, sometimes despite a strong desire to serve, applicants do not qualify.

“The hardest part of the job is disappointing applicants who, for one reason or another, are not qualified to serve,” said Majors.

The 445th Airlift Wing has a full complement of skilled recruiters who can answer questions or assist you with referrals: Senior Master Sgt. Robert Mielke, flight chief; Master Sgt. Yvette Larson, senior recruiter; Master Sgt. Joseph Hedges, in-service recruiter; Master Sgt. Milton Lezcano, Huber Heights South; Master Sgt. Vincent Majors, Huber Heights North; Master Sgt. James Bauer, officer accession; Master Sgt. Edward Norris, Florence, Kentucky; Technical Sgt. Brittany Paus, Dublin, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Thomas Bruner, on-base recruiter.

Phone numbers for all recruiters are available through a link on the 445th Airlift Wing page at <http://www.445aw.afrc.af.mil/> or you can stop by the office in building 4014, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Judges needed for Tecumseh High School AFJROTC drill meet

The Tecumseh High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will host their 27th Annual Regional “All-Air Force” Junior ROTC Drill Meet Championships Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Tecumseh High School in New Carlisle, Ohio.

Volunteers are needed to serve as judges for the competition. Medical technicians are also needed to help man the first aid station.

Volunteers must be at the school by 7:30 a.m. and must stay until the event concludes at ap-

proximately 4:30 p.m.

Uniform of the day is service dress for judges and ABUs for med techs. If you are interested in being a volunteer, contact Master Sgt. Antonio Ruiz at (937) 845-4464 or OH-881@afjrotc.com.



SPOTLIGHT



Staff Sgt. Devin Long

Rank/Name

Tech. Sgt. John Brinker Jr.

Unit

445th Security Forces Squadron

Duty Title

Fire team leader

Hometown

La Grange, Kentucky

Civilian Job

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Education

Nursing school

Hobbies

Camping, hiking, carpentry, blacksmithing, bookbinding, illuminated writing, shooting... the list goes on.

Career Goal

I have two goals: to be a First Sergeant and/or complete a bachelor's degree in nursing and earn my commission.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

the 445th is a family... not just a one weekend a month and two weeks a year family. We can truly count on each other to be there when we need it.

Why did you join the Air Force?

I joined the Air Force originally as a family tradition of military service. Somewhere along the way it became more than that. I felt I had to serve my country and my compatriots.

Annual awards banquet

Mark your calendars for the 445th Airlift Wing annual awards banquet to be held April 2, 2016 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, honor guard member, civilian, spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category will be announced during the banquet.

The costs of the event are \$30 for E-7 and above; \$25 for E-6 and below; \$13 for children 6-12; and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by Mar. 6, 2016.

The dress for the evening is semi-formal or mess dress for enlisted Airmen, and mess dress for officers. Civilians may wear formal evening attire.

Any Airmen (E-1 through O-6) or civilian can nominate their spouse, youth or fellow Airmen, or those of a co-worker for field grade officer, civilian, honor guard member, squadron, spouse, youth and community partner of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to Chief Master Sgt. James Felton at 445aw.ccc.res@us.af.mil no later than close of business March 5, 2016.

For more information, contact the public affairs office at 257-5784.



Tech. Sgt. Frank Oliver

445th Maintenance Group receives new commander

Col. Jeffrey McGalliard, 445th Airlift Wing commander, passes the guidon to Col. Cade Gibson, incoming 445th Maintenance Group commander, during the 445 MXG Assumption of Command Ceremony January 9, 2016.



News Briefs

In Memory



**Tech. Sgt.
Shane Marrinan**

May 14, 1985-Jan. 11, 2016

445th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron
Our thoughts and prayers
go out to Tech. Sgt.
Marrinan's family and
friends.

Commander's call

Commander's call will be held Sunday, Feb. 7 at 7 a.m. in the base theater and Sunday, Feb. 21 at 8 a.m. in Hangar 4026.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at (937) 257-5784.

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col John Marang, 87 APS
Lt Col Cheri Morio, ASTS
Lt Col Paul Neef, 87 APS
Lt Col Judith Pearce, AES
Lt Col Ted Schiller, 89 AS
Lt Col Kimberly Simmons, ASTS
Lt Col Matthew Smith, 89 AS
Maj David Bates, MXG
Maj Eric Florschuetz, 89 AS
CMSgt Ronald Rearick, CES
MSgt Brad Eckhart, AES
MSgt Todd Evans, CES
MSgt Scott McCoy, MXG
MSgt Ed Sims, MXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Holly Gebert, AMDS
Capt Emily Nankivell, 89 AS
Capt Cynthia Querubin, ASTS
Capt Tekara Ray, ASTS
TSgt Mark Duke, AES

TSgt Travis Egger, 89 AS
TSgt Zachary Fontaine, AES
TSgt Matthew Koessel, AES
SSgt Shannon Brown, ASTS
SSgt Leah Hurt, 87 APS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Lt Col Kimberly Simmons, ASTS
Capt Christopher Smith, AW
1Lt Jennifer Byrne, 89 AS
TSgt David Cherolis, AMDS
TSgt Thomas Masters, 87 APS

Air Medal

Maj Keith Collard, 89 AS
Maj Dustin Johnson, 89 AS
Maj Kathy Miller, AES
SMSgt Phillip Fernandez, 89 AS
MSgt Bret Baker, 89 AS
MSgt Jerald Cremeens, 89 AS
MSgt Charles Fritz, 89 AS
MSgt Roberto Garcia, 89 AS
MSgt Lorenzo Law, 89 AS

Newcomers

Capt Lucas Marksity, AW
Capt Tyler Overholt, AMXS
TSgt John Baumann, MXS
TSgt Cassandraey Baumann, MXS
SSgt Bloom Beloved, CES
SSgt Cody Green, 89 AS
SSgt Bryan Monsees, MXS
SSgt Jarod Petry, 87 APS
SSgt Joseph Prest, MXS
SSgt Andrew Rossman, CES
SSgt Bradley Strong, OSS
SrA Daniel Croley, MXS
SrA Nicholas Kakaris, FSS
SrA Michael Schultz, 87 APS
SrA Joseph Young, ASTS
A1C Shauna Lizzi, AW
A1C Sarah Wilhelm, ASTS
Amn Sean Chapman, ASTS
Amn Hunter Harpster, CES
AB Barrell McCarthy, MXS
AB Mariah Moreland, FSS



Courtesy photos

Staff Sgt. Anthony Lauderdale, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron structural journeyman, makes repairs to a railing outside Bldg. 4004 home to the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The paint chips on the railing were thick and peeling away from the rails, causing safety issues because it was impossible to hold onto the railings leading into the building. The railings were rusted completely off at the bottoms of a couple posts and one of the upper bars was completely rusted away. Volunteers from the 445 CES pitched in to make the repairs after learning a work order submitted wouldn't be completed until June 2016. The project was completed in three weeks.



AF celebrates African-American History Month

Each February, the country recognizes African-American History Month to highlight the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens during some of the most devastating obstacles in the nation's history: slavery, prejudice, poverty, and looks at their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

This has particular interest for those in the American military as for the first time in history, the U.S. armed forces are led by an African-American commander in chief.

On June 1, 1949, Air Force officials published regulations ending segregation, thus becoming the first of all U.S. military service branches to complete integration of African-American personnel into all-white units.

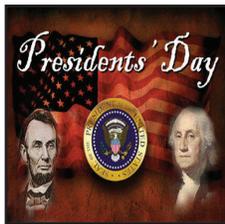
The first celebration to commemorate the contributions to the nation made by people of African descent occurred Feb. 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist and editor Frederick Douglas, as well as President Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. Since then, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month.



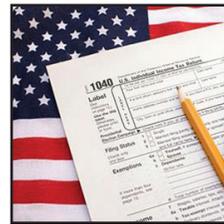
On the Web



Remembering Desert Storm photo story



President's Day Feb. 15, 2016



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