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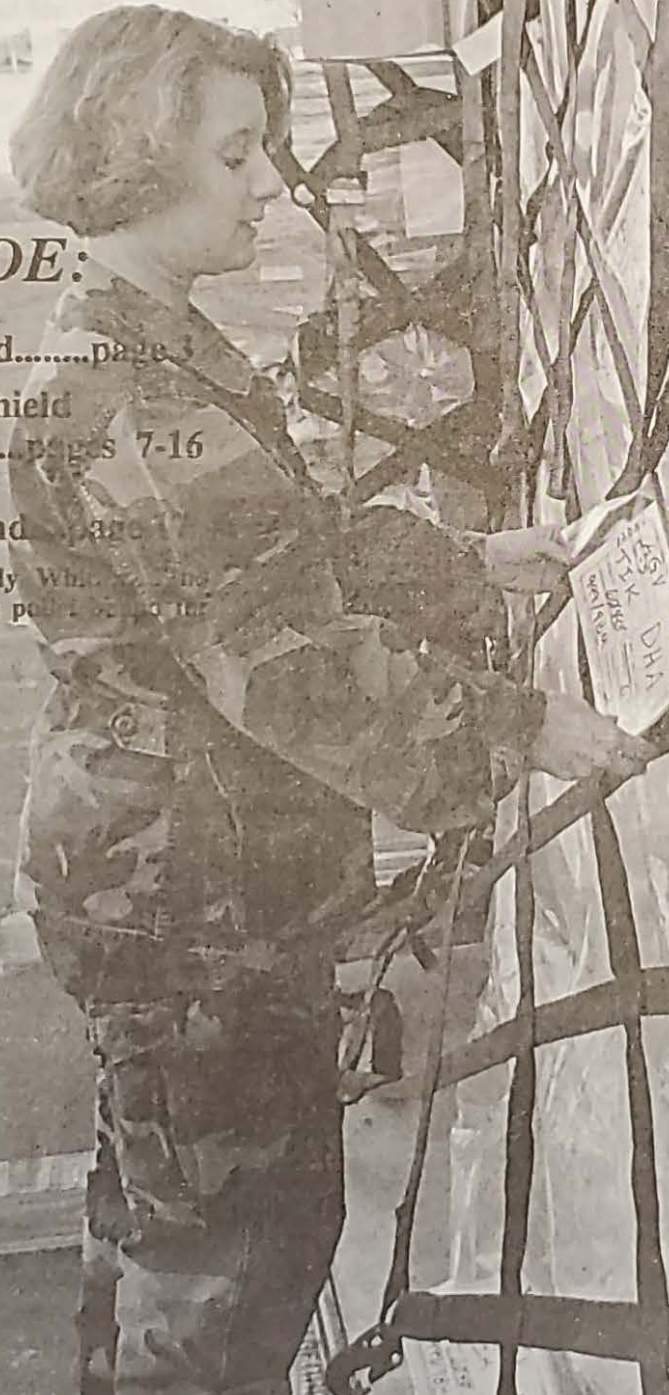
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Cover: A1C Kimberly White, cargo processor, tags a pullout section of the Desert Shield.



EDITORIALS

Colonel's Journal

I'm proud to part of the "OKIE" team

Hello ladies and gentlemen of the 507th TFG. I am Lt. Col. Bob Lytle. For the second time in my professional career, I have been given the opportunity of moving into a position previously occupied by Col. Larry Turner. I am truly honored for being allowed to join your unit. I also know that with this move automatic acceptance is not guaranteed but must be earned. I am ready for the challenge, opportunity and privilege of serving as your new commander.

Before his departure, Colonel Turner and I talked at length about all the good things here at the 507th.

I heard a glowing report of how hard all of you have worked to improve the unit and it shows. The awards and honors that 507th people and units have received in the last four years prove that. Take pride in your accomplishments. You deserve them. I would like to join you in continuing that tradition.

I also know how you pulled together through a difficult conversion and brought this unit to it's current combat ready status. This is the mark of a professional team.

Now, more than ever, reservists from across the United States are being presented the opportunity to stand by our active duty counterparts and prove that Total Policy works: that the investment of modern equipment, money and resources in the Reserve forces was a worthwhile effort. I think the Reserve has already proven it. If the 507th is called, we will prove we are capable to fly, fight and win.

Meanwhile, we must continue to train, refine, and fine-tune our skills. Our upcoming ORI and the world situation demands it. April is only three months away and we cannot afford to waste time wondering about future possibilities.

It's been jokingly said that no combat-ready unit ever passes inspection and no inspection-ready unit ever passes combat. I know we can and must do both.

In closing, I think you might be wondering what changes will the new guy hit us with. Let me say that I learned during my first experience at following behind Colonel Turner that he ran a tight ship. With that in mind you can rest assured that only needed changes in policy or procedure will occur. I will continue the commander's open door policy but please do not circumvent your chain of command. I look forward to meeting you all and also look forward with anticipation to meeting and beating (with your help) the challenges we will encounter this year.



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Communicate with your employees

Good communication is the first step toward motivating employees to improve productivity, quality and safety awareness. It helps motivate your employees to work toward management goals by letting them know there are good reasons behind your decisions.

It gets your employees on your side by letting them know that you and the rest of the management staff care about your employees as individuals. And when you let your employees know you care about them and their problems, as well as about the work they do, they'll care more and do more, too.

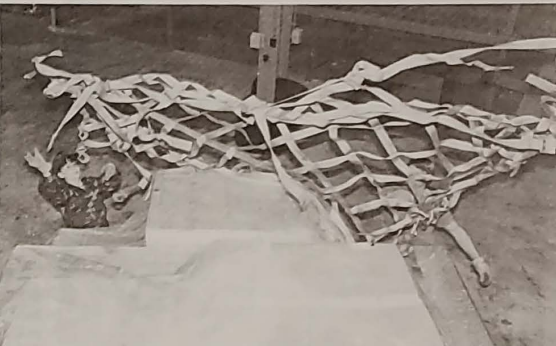
72nd APS is activated

Members of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron were recalled to active duty November 26.

The 114 members of the 72nd were activated in place and should remain at Tinker Air Force Base for an active duty tour not to exceed 180 days.

Some 760 Air Force Reservists from a total of six aerial port and mobile aerial port squadrons across the country were called to active duty in November to support Operation Desert Shield. With the call-up of these units, the number of Air Force Reservists called to active duty totals some 4,480.

Personnel from the 72nd APS load and unload air freight arriving and departing from points worldwide. They work out of the Tinker Air Force Base air freight terminal, and now that they are mobilized, join Military Airlift Command.



AIC Sandra Deffler, 72nd APS Air Cargo processor, tosses netting over a pallet headed to Desert Shield. (U.S. Air Force by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

Unit supporting Tinker Terminal

The mobilization of the reservists is a direct result of a tremendous workload increase being experienced by the air freight terminal in shipping materials and equipment from Tinker to support Operation Desert Shield.

"The call-up affects primarily the air cargo career field," said MSGt. Sammie Ware, air reserve technician at the 72nd. "November 28 at 8 a.m. was the deadline for assembly. Even the six people we had on temporary duty at the 512th Military Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, Delaware were called back home."

Approximately 10 percent of those recalled were federal civil service employees or worked for the state of Oklahoma. Others were college students, police officers, high school administrators and teachers.

"Most 72nd members live locally," said MSGt. Dave Hernandez, another 72nd air reserve technician. "Approximately 90 percent of our people are Oklahoma residents, but our commander, Lt. Col. Stephen King, flew in from his home in Georgia, and Lt. Col. Otis Lounsberry, our operations officer, came in from his home in Louisiana."

The activation is just one of a series of Reserve and Guard activations nationwide. It followed a November 14 announcement by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney giving the military departments authority to call up to 72,500 more members of the National Guard and Reserve in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The 72nd was activated by a request of Tinker AFB officials, through Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command, due to a dramatic increase in supplies being shipped to the Middle East. A recent study completed earlier this year by MAC and AFLC, had originally projected Tinker's outbound cargo to increase from between 600 and 700 tons per month, to more than 2,600 tons per month.

The build-up began in July, 1990, and called for additional 140 military personnel to process the new mission workload.

"Suddenly, with Operation Desert Shield, our cargo load jumped to 7,000 tons per month," said Col. Jon King, Tinker's Transportation Operations Division chief. "That is almost three times what was projected, and we received only 20 additional people. The colonel said many of those people were sent to Saudi Arabia."

"The 72nd activation of 114 extra people was good news indeed," he said.

The 72nd APS, originally formed at Tinker in July 1971 and has never been activated before. Its strength remained stable during the past 19 years, and its current mission statements includes a mobile mission. Even though the 72nd is MAC-gained, MAC has assigned the unit to Tinker, so members will work along side current military and civilian employees in the Transportation Operations Division.

Team effort helps Tinker Terminal



With all the hustle and bustle going on at Tinker's Aerial Port of Embarkation (APOE) terminal, you learn quickly not to stand still. As fast as personnel are unloading trucks and loading aircraft, you may find yourself on a pallet and a C-5 headed for the Middle East.

The mission of an APOE is to serve as a final port where goods and materials are processed prior to shipment to their final destination. Earlier this year, the Tinker APOE, had received word they would be servicing two more areas or "channels" over seas.

With the extra channels, officials had estimated cargo shipments would increase from 600 tons to 2,600 tons per month. With unforeseen development of Operation Desert Shield however, those figures have dramatically increased.

According to Jim Gibson, APOE manager, the Terminal processed more than 700 pallets and 2,500 tons of cargo during Thanksgiving weekend. "On Thanksgiving Day alone, we processed 303 pallets and 950 tons of cargo," he said.

LEFT: SSgt. Randy Stokes, Air Cargo Processor, lashes down netting on a pallet of plastic pipe.

BELOW: MSgt. Steve Maupin, Assistant NCOIC, Cargo Processing, directs forklifts to the next pallet of out-bound goods.



The arrival of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron members on November 26 was viewed as a welcome relief.

"They have trained with us and we know them all by their first names," said Col. James Corbett, director of distribution at Tinker. "We really needed them."

The newly mobilized reservists have their work cut out for them. The terminal is currently processing an average of 7,500 tons of cargo per month. Over the four day Thanksgiving holiday, it processed nearly half it's monthly average. The APOE is the only inland United States Air Force facility of its kind and with it's current workload is now the second largest aerial port in number of shipments and pieces of cargo.

Personnel are moving items ranging from Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to chocolate pudding and M & Ms to Top Shelf meals for the troops.

A Lockheed C-5 Galaxy transport, the largest Air Force cargo plane, can carry 60 to 70 tons of cargo and can accommodate items too large to cram into the cargo holds of other transports.

According to Lt. Col. Stephen King, 72nd APS commander, "Aircraft are loaded by seven-man teams. The load times vary depending on the type of aircraft and the cargo. A typical C-5 can take up to four hours to load."

On November 27, the APOE loaded and sent 12 C-5 aircraft on their way.



ABOVE: A1C Anthony Woody, air cargo processor, off-loads one of the dozens of daily incoming semi trucks.

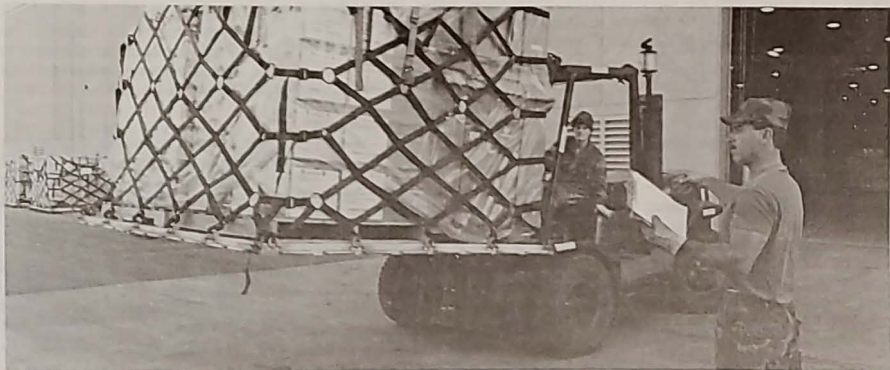
BELOW: SSgt. Cheri Hughey and SSgt. Adam Knight, air cargo processors, marshal a pallet out to the warehouse parking lot for final processing prior to shipment. (U.S. Air Force photos by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

Driving around Tinker AFB, one can see literally hundreds of pallets, loaded, processed and waiting to be shipped. Officials currently estimate the terminal has a backlog equal to 17 C-5 loads ready to go. But as fast as the cargo leaves, more arrives daily.

Approximately 30 to 50 semitrucks arrive daily bringing supplies that must be inventoried, processed and palletized. Fourteen truckloads of sorted mail also arrive at the base each day from the Dallas and San Francisco consolidation points for airlift to the Middle East. The APOE loads it on planes and ships it on as quickly as possible.

"Our people have been working 12-hour shifts since we were called up on active duty," Colonel King said. He predicted that workload was going to continue for quite some time. "Even if people started coming back tomorrow, we would still be needed for months to process all the returning equipment," he said.

To date, the overall transportation effort — estimated at some 5 billion pounds and more than 220,000 people—equates to moving one-half of Oklahoma City complete with people, cars, trucks, household goods, warehouses and supermarkets.



High year of tenure starts in 1992

The Air Force Reserve won't begin releasing reservists from active participation until 1992 because of its high year of tenure program, but AFRES officials are concerned that reservists don't know how the program will affect them.

"Ask a dozen reservists about the high year of tenure program and you may hear several different versions on how it works, including questions about what it is," said MSgt. Tonua A. Henn, noncommissioned officer in charge of the career motivation division at Headquarters AFRES.

The Air Force Reserve began its high year of tenure program Jan. 1, 1989, for enlisted people assigned to the Selected Reserve.

The purpose of the program is to put the right number of people in the right grades, improve promotion opportunities for lower-grade enlisted people and provide a more physically fit force.

The HYT program limits participation in the Reserve to 33 years of total federal military service for enlisted reservists unless selected for retention beyond their HYT. The Reserve is implementing this program in three increments.

Increment one includes reservists with a pay date year of 1956 or earlier. The Reserve will normally establish their high year of tenure date as the first day of the month following the anniversary pay date month in 1992. For example, a pay date of June 13, 1951, equals a HYT date of July 1, 1992.

Increment two affects members with a pay date year between 1957 and 1960. People in this group will have a 1993 high year of tenure. The normal HYT dates are: 1957--March 31; 1958--June 30; 1959--Sept 30; and 1960--Dec. 31.

Increment three covers reservists with a pay date year of 1961 or later. In most cases, the high year of tenure date will fall on the first day of the month following the pay date month and year, plus 33 years. For example, the pay date of June 17, 1961, equates to an HYT date of July 1, 1994.



Mark Walker doesn't appear to be worried about High Year Tenure as SMSgt. Howard Gauntz, Senior Recruiter, and Lt. Col. Roger Barr, 507th CSS Commander, "enlist" him in the 507th. Mark is the son of Capt. Marcia Walker, 507th Disaster Preparedness Officer. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Rich Curry)

Reservists in increments two and three will have an opportunity to participate at an additional three years past their high year of tenure date, Sergeant Henn said.

Direct Deposit is mandatory

ROBINS AFB, Ga. (AFRNS) -- Air Force Reservists mobilized or recalled to active duty by the president, including those called up to support Operation Desert Shield, must now participate in the Air Force Direct Deposit of Pay Program.

In addition, when reservists revert back to their Reserve status, they must receive their pay by direct deposit under a "new" status.

These policy changes update the "grandfathering" provisions for making direct deposit mandatory for reservists, guardsmen and retirees who reenlist, accept a regular or career Reserve appointment or retire after Aug. 31, 1989.

Under the new policy, reservists become new military accessions to the active force, regardless of the duration of mobilization or recall, and therefore

must participate in the program. The Air Force will grant waivers to this policy on a case-by-case basis.

The policy change does not affect Air Force people currently deployed to Desert Shield locations but will apply to them when they return and revert back to their "new" status.

Direct deposit eliminates the need for large amounts of cash in the deployed areas and permits reservists to provide for their families better during deployment, said Air Force officials.

They said the Air Force policy is consistent with the Army, which mandated direct deposit for its Guard and Reserve soldiers called to active duty for Desert Shield since Aug. 31.



Myths and the Middle East

By SSgt. David P. Masko
Air Force News Service

No definite line can be drawn about middle eastern culture, but one expert feels deployed people will get a better understanding if they try and understand how the culture developed, and how the people think.

Opening the door on a lot of memories from his posting in the Middle East, Jerry Waters, a foreign service specialist with the U.S. Information Agency, described the desert as a place "without movement."

"In the middle of the Sinai Desert, there's not even the whisper of a sound," Mr Waters said. "It's quite simply 360 degrees of sand and rock."

As a U.S. foreign policy expert, Mr. Waters has been called-up by the Pentagon to support Desert Shield by answering media questions on Defense Department activities.

Normally, foreign service people are called upon for their political and international background, as well as their "natural charm and gift of persuasion," but Mr. Waters doesn't need to rely solely on those traits in his current duty.

His job thus far has been to give the facts on one of the most successful deployments in military history.

News about far-off places like the Middle East is no longer far off. But to understand information about this ancient land and its "myths", some background needs to be explained, Mr. Waters said.

For those not familiar with Middle East geology, the region is arid, dry and barren. Because the desert is mostly lifeless, there is nothing to make sound with the exception of a breeze skimming past the sand dunes.

The Middle East desert is unlike certain desert areas which Americans might be used to.

"You can dig into the desert in Arizona and it's hard, but over there when you dig with a shovel, the sand just falls back into the hole...It's just so vast," Mr. Waters said.

Known as the cradle of civilization, history in that region dates back to 500 B.C. But while the region is now embracing a modern overtone, few westerners know the history or customs of the Arab people.

"I think there is a lack of education or knowledge of how the Moslem world works, and when we say 'Moslem world,' it's quite extensive," Mr. Waters said.

From West Africa to Mongolia, across North Africa and Saudi Arabia to the Persian Gulf, stretches the vast Middle East, an area encompassing about 7 million miles and inhabited by 200 million people.

Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia call themselves "kingdoms" because they include 50-100 major tribes, ranging from desert nomads to noble sheiks.

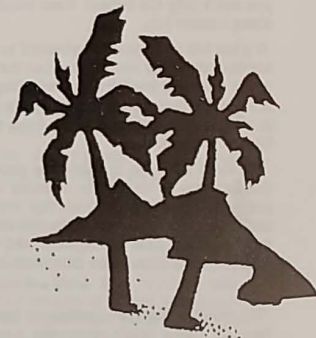
The Moslem "brotherhood" is enormous and encompasses the Islam religion of which the Supreme Deity is Allah and Mohammed, the chief prophet and founder.

To any student of the Middle East, an understanding of the religion is more than reverence for a God or system of beliefs, "It is a code for a way to live."

It is very difficult to reach valid generalizations with regard to the religious laws of the Middle Eastern countries, Mr. Waters said.

"When we go over to another country, we have to recognize the simple fact that you're in another country that not only has its own culture and own way of living, but strict laws. It's very difficult for Americans to understand because they are so free," Mr. Waters explained.

He added that, when in Saudi Arabia, all people are subject to that country's laws. And in the Middle East, the people enforce Islamic laws of justice to the letter.





Greetings from the desert

By Capt. Wes J. Layton
347th Tactical Fighter Wing Deployed

The sergeant behind the mailroom counter gives you a sad smile and says, "I'm sorry, there's nothing for you today."

You glare back in answer. You know she's not to blame, yet you can't help but believe there would be a letter if she were doing a better job.

It's not her fault, you tell yourself as you walk away. It's not her fault that your sinuses feel like they'll explode -- a reaction to the fine dust you've been breathing for several weeks now. It's not her fault that the military cot you've been sleeping on is winning the battle and you have a permanent knot in the base of your neck.

No, there's no one to blame for your living conditions -- for the fact you're thousands of miles from loved ones or that you're not spending a Saturday watching a football game, sucking down a cold one. No one to blame, except for some mustached fat man in Baghdad, and you'd give a half year's salary to have 10 minutes alone with him right now.

The small, white, air-conditioned bus roars in and out of four lanes of traffic that's occupying a road actually designed to serve only three. Horns blare as the bus dives into a traffic circle, the maneuver looking very much like an assault in a demolition derby. The bus driver downshifts and darts around

a white Mercedes and then around a new, white Buick and then again around a white Honda.

Glancing at the sideview mirror, the driver notices your white-knuckle grip on the handle mounted above your seat. With a wide grin he explains that all the GI drivers have learned to follow the example of the locals and drive like the charioteers in the movie Ben Hur.

The best way to survive the bus trip, you decide, is to ignore it. You stick your head in a copy of the Stars and Stripes. The paper is three days old, but it's the latest news available. You hadn't realized how much of a news junkie you were until being stranded in some foreign land. Back home, up-to-the-minute news can be had with a quick flick of a television knob. Here, current events are two to three days late.

Rumors fill the news void. The wilder the rumor, the further it's disseminated. The better ones circulating at the moment concern the M-1 tank crew who blew up a camel, believing it to be Iraqi commandos, and the rumor that the king of Saudi Arabia was buying 500,000 cases of beer for the troops in the Middle East.

It's not yet 9 a.m. and the temperature on the flight line is pushing well over the 100-degree mark. The heated air distorts the images, with the jets, equipment and people wavering like reflections on a rippling pond.

(Continued on page 11)

Defense transportation system works

(AFNS) -- Operation Desert Shield has provided a clear demonstration that America's defense transportation system works, according to the man tasked to oversee the vast network encompassing military and civilian ships, railcars and planes.

"The importance of such a system has been amply demonstrated during the past two months," said Gen. H.T. Johnson. "We will need to make improvements, yes, but they will be on the margins. Our policies, our programs and our systems work."

General Johnson serves the dual-hatted role as Commander in Chief of Military Airlift command and the U.S. Transportation Command. The two commands are charged with getting troops, equipment and supplies gathered and moved during operations such as Just Cause last December and Desert Shield, which the general described as the first major test of the nation's transportation system since Vietnam.

The operation has presented several firsts, General Johnson said, including the first activation of the Civil Reserve air fleet since it was formed in 1951. Others include the first major callup of the Ready Reserve Force and the first activation of the eight fast sealift ships.

"Operation Desert Shield also presented the first test of our Total Force Concept in a major contingency," General Johnson said, adding that from a transportation standpoint it crossed all lines of the military and business world. "America's uniformed services, active-duty, guard and reserve; our Merchant Marine; our airline, trucking and rail industries; our ports and our unions have all leaned forward as a team."

**"Our policies, our programs
and our systems works."**

The overall transportation effort -- estimated at some 5 billion pounds and more than 220,000 people--equates to moving one-half of Oklahoma City complete with people, cars, trucks, household goods, warehouses and supermarkets.

From an airlift standpoint, the Desert Shield effort rewrote history, the general said. At its peak in the initial stages, more than 100 strategic airlift aircraft were landing in the desert each day. In airlift terms, the Desert Shield effort surpassed in six weeks what



Off-loading cargo in Saudi Arabia.

was accomplished during the Berlin Airlift in 65 weeks.

"Since those initial flights, we have built an air bridge that surpasses any in history," General Johnson said.

But while the numbers are impressive, the general attributed the overall success to one thing: people.

"The complexity, volume and great distances involved in Desert Shield are certainly impressive," he said. "But there is much more to this transportation effort than numbers, organizations and equipment. More than anything else, Just Cause and this first few months of Desert Shield have proven once again that no matter how sophisticated we make our organizations, our technology and our equipment, people will forever be our most important asset."

DoD booklet helps families

Military members routinely deploy on unaccompanied tours, and DoD helps the families they leave behind. But Desert Shield is a different kind of deployment, and it requires the special family support DoD is providing, said Millicent Woods, deputy assistant secretary of defense (family support, education and safety).

In a recent interview, Woods said the most important difference between Desert Shield and routine deployments is the uncertainty that no one knows how long U.S. troops will be gone. In addition, Woods said Desert Shield was a very rapid deployment.

But families of service members deployed to Desert Shield have more support from DoD than families of members who went to Vietnam. Said Woods, "We have in place a support system that people haven't had available to them in the past."

She said military family service centers have added Desert Shield-specific activities to their regular ones. The Desert Shield Task Force of the Family Policy Coordinating Committee meets weekly to discuss ideas and address needs for family support.

For example, the task force recognized the special need to communicate to families of deployed members of the Reserve and National Guard. That resulted in a booklet for Reserve Component families entitled "Ordered to Active Duty: What Now?" DoD has distributed 115,000 copies.

The booklets, written by a psychologist, try to help children cope with having loved ones deployed in the Middle East.

They try to help children understand why the adult had to leave, explain what the adult may be doing there, and reduce while acknowledging the child's fears about the adult's absence. The booklets will be distributed at military family services offices and schools at installations most affected by the deployment.

Other services include self-help groups, 24-hour hotline services and added child care support. In addition, the American Red Cross is supporting Desert Shield families either directly or by steering them to the appropriate military family service center.

Woods said the family support centers are providing services that are not gender specific.

"Over 60 percent of single parents in the military are men," she said.

People have to deal with separation whether they are men or women. The certainty that a male gets from the fact that his family has this support at home is the same that a female gets."

Woods said DoD's family support efforts are more than just "taking care of mamas and babies at home." Because the family's well-being is important to the military member's mind set, taking care of families is an essential part of national defense.

"We see the family as an integral part of our troop activities...It is an ongoing part of what the military is all about," she concluded.

Reserve supports Gulf buildup

(AFRNS) -- Air Force Reserve support of Operation Desert Shield continues to grow as more American troops are sent to the Persian Gulf.

By mid-November, Air Force Reservists had logged more than 63,700 hours of flying time for Desert Shield. They flew nearly 80,000 passengers, hauled almost 132,000 tons of cargo and pumped almost 3 million gallons of aircraft fuel.

Reserve associate aircrews, flying huge strategic airlift transports, moved the most people and material. C-5 Galaxy crews put in more than 18,000 hours and transported some 40,500 passengers and 80,000 tons of cargo. C-141 Starlifter crews logged 27,000 hours, while airlifting nearly 16,000 passengers and more than 25,000 tons of cargo.

Unit-equipped aircraft provided the following support:

- * C-5 -- 6,400 hours; 11,700 passengers; and 17,850 tons of cargo.

- * C-141 -- 3,000 hours; 1,500 passengers; and 1,620 tons of cargo.

- * C-130 Hercules tactical transport -- 4,700 hours; 7,250 passengers; and 3,250 tons of cargo.

- * KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft -- 1,700 hours; 950 passengers; 45 tons of cargo; and 1.5 million gallons of fuel.

AFRES associate crews on KC-10 Extender refueling tankers flew nearly 2,500 hours, while airlifting more than 1,900 passengers and 3,900 tons of cargo and pumping more than 1.4 million gallons of fuel.

Look out for "war clause" in insurance

Due to Operation Desert Shield, some insurance companies have tightened rules on accepting life insurance and disability income policy applications on military people. Policies already in force are not affected, Air Force Military Personnel Center officials said.

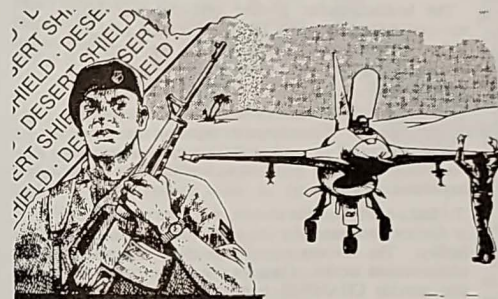
Anyone who plans to upgrade or buy new insurance coverage should check the policy's provisions before buying. Look for a "war clause," which won't pay if death or disability results from hostile fire.

Greetings from the desert

(Continued from page 8)

Although the aircraft aren't being flown that often, the multimillion-dollar systems still require constant maintenance to keep them Code 1 -- operationally ready. Every exposed surface and part has to be constantly cleaned; the desert dust finds its way into everything, potentially corroding and wearing out precision parts worth thousands of dollars. It's an exacting job that sometimes seems a near wasted effort, for no sooner is everything clean, then it's again time to go over everything.

When not on the flight line, the crew chiefs and maintenance specialists can be found sprawled about in the dark, air-conditioned halls of the operations section, which is in a small building adjacent to the main hangar, seeking some respite from the heat. Some doze, others read or play cards. All are



fighting the biggest battle -- boredom.

By 1 p.m., the temperature on the flight line is near 130 degrees. The skin of the aircraft is so hot you can feel it through the soles of your boots. Gloves are needed to do any prolonged work on the aircraft, and the thin, flexible leather flight gloves issued to pilots become highly coveted possessions. But as oppressive as it is on the ramp, nowhere is it more brutal than at hot pit refueling.

The pit sits at the other end of the flight line. The job here is quick turnaround of planes back from patrol missions. Fully armed aircraft taxi up, engines still running. The air is quickly super-heated by the choking exhaust. The pit crew, avoiding the engine intakes, scrambles to the underside of the planes, dragging heavy refueling hoses. Pumps are turned on and the hoses, connected to huge rubber bladders resting in sandbag bunkers off to the side of the runway, draw fuel to replenish the thirsty planes. The refueling takes only minutes. Tanks again full, hoses are disconnected, and the aircraft taxi to the end of the runway for another sortie.

Another job done, the pit crew stumbles over to a sandbag emplacement and under some camouflaged netting to get away

from the searing sun. Warm water is sucked from canteens and liter bottles. Hot and depleted bodies sprawl out in the shade, wishing for a cool breeze. Books, newspapers and old letters are pulled out to read as they settle in for the battle against boredom.

The shift is just about over and the call for a foreign object damage walk sounds over the loudspeaker. Hot, tired bodies line up in front of the hangar. The order goes out, and the long line abreast moves slowly across the flight line. Bodies occasionally stop to bend over and pick up bits of metal, rock or anything that could be vacuumed up into a jet engine intake and destroy it. Rocks are very plentiful. The country grows great rocks.

On the trip back to the camp, the bus drives past a Bedouin family. They've set up their brightly colored tents in the middle of the desert, about 100 yards from the road. There's a small picket fence surrounding a group of shaggy goats. Tethered behind the tents are four camels looking quite aloof. You wonder what the goats and camels could possibly live on, for all you can see are rocks and more rocks.

The Bedouins wave at you as the bus carries you away to your own tent.

It's shift change, and there's lots of activity around the camp. You make your way over to the shower tent where you wash up before heading to the mess tent. The food's good, but you'd trade your first born for some junk food. Rumor has it that at one of the other places there's a nearby pizza place that delivers to the camp.

After dinner, you wander over to the movie tent to see what's playing, ducking your head through the flap. It's "Lethal Weapon II." You decide not to stay, as you've already seen it five times.

Your journey takes you past some other tents where people are sitting outside playing cards. A group of spectators forms a circle around the four players. You watch for about 15 minutes and then move on. Farther down, in a well-lit area, a group is playing volleyball. You pull up a piece of ground, joining the twenty or so other fans.

The game over, you decide to call it a night and head for your tent. There's a new sign in front, which reads, "Hotel California."

Breakfast finished, you stumble over toward the mail room. The dust is still playing havoc with your sinuses, making your head feel like a basketball. Inside the mail tent, you half-heartedly ask the same question you ask every morning. The female sergeant smiles, reaches behind the counter and hands you a small stack of envelopes...

How to use your CHAMPUS benefits

Desert Shield deployments of Air Force reservists may mean some families will turn to CHAMPUS for the first time.

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services shares the cost of covered health care received from civilian sources by eligible families. Before seeking health care under CHAMPUS, first-time users should contact the health benefits adviser at the nearest military medical facility. The adviser will verify the user's eligibility for CHAMPUS care by checking the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. The adviser can answer questions about health benefits in general and help patients decide how to get the best care at the least cost.



Families of mobilized reservists are eligible for CHAMPUS benefits if the reservist has orders to serve on active duty more than 30 consecutive days. Eligibility begins on the first day of the active duty period covered by the orders. Reservists provide information on their dependents to their local Reserve centers and Reserve units. Dependents who need them will be issued military identification cards with CHAMPUS eligibility indicated on the back.



Families who have private health insurance in addition must submit claims for civilian health care to their other health insurance before filing.

The health benefits adviser generally can issue non-availability statements; CHAMPUS users who live within 40 miles of a military hospital must get one before seeking non-emergency inpatient care from a civilian source.

Users submit their statement and claim to the contract claims processor. Non-emergency inpatient care claims will be rejected if the patient did not get a statement. For example, birth of a full-term, healthy baby is not considered an emergency.

To find a health benefits adviser, check the phone book or directory assistance for the nearest military medical facility. The advisers normally work in the patient administration section. Contract claims processors can also provide CHAMPUS information. Here is the toll-free number for the south central region: 1-800-236-6000.

To find a health benefits adviser, check the phone book or directory assistance for the nearest military medical facility. The advisers normally work in the patient administration section. Contract claims processors can also provide CHAMPUS information. Here is the toll-free number for the south central region: 1-800-236-6000.

(AFNS) -- The daily fee active-duty families pay for inpatient care in civilian hospitals increased 20 cents, from \$8.35 to \$8.55, Oct. 1.

The increase means that someone in an active-duty service family admitted to a civilian hospital for care under CHAMPUS pays the daily rate of \$8.55 times the number of days spent in the hospital, or a flat fee of \$25, whichever is greater.

This rate does not apply to other categories of CHAMPUS-eligible patients.

CHAMPUS rates increase

Countries of the Middle East

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information is a synopsis on those Middle East countries that are key players in the Persian Gulf crisis. Pertinent data is provided on Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Iran. More information is available in State Department background notes maintained in the 507th Public Affairs Office in Building 1043.

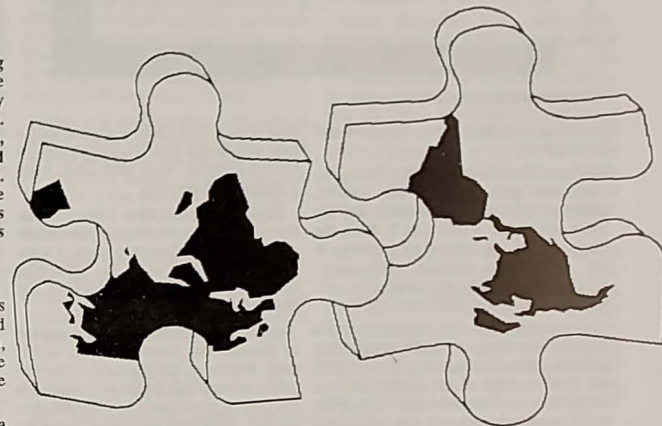
IRAQ

Iraq was known in ancient times as Mesopotamia, an area that flourished with such civilizations as the Sumerian, Babylonian and Parthian cultures. The region is the legendary locale of the Garden of Eden.

Today, Iraq is an oil-rich country with a population exceeding 16 million. About 75 percent of the people are Arab and 20 percent are Kurd. The country's chief religion is Shi'a Muslim and the major language spoken is Arabic.

With a land area about the size of California, the country is ruled by the Ba'ath Party through a nine-member Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) headed by Saddam Hussein who came to power in July 1979. As commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, President Hussein has assumed the rank of field marshal and commands a military force of some one million troops.

With a hot and dry climate, this 18-province country is bordered by Kuwait, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. The country slopes from mountains 10,000 feet above sea level along the border with Iran and Turkey to reedy marshes in the southeast. Much of the land is desert or wasteland.



Average temperatures range from higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August to below freezing in January. Most rainfall occurs from December through April and averages between 4 and 7 inches annually.

Iraq's capital is Baghdad with nearly four million inhabitants. Other major cities are Basra, Mosul, and Kirkuk.

Despite its abundant land and water resources, Iraq is a net food importer. Iraq depends on oil exports to feed its people. Nearly all food and merchandise imports are compensated by oil revenues.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia developed as a civilization some 5,000 years ago. The country is

best known as the birthplace of Islam, which in the century after the Prophet Mohammed's death in A.D. 632 conquered much of the Mediterranean world.

Saudi Arabia covers some four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula -- roughly about one-third the size of the United States. The topography is mainly desert. Saudi Arabia has no permanent rivers or bodies of water. Rainfall is erratic, averaging 2 to 4 inches annually -- except in Asir, which averages 12 to 30 inches in the summer. The Saudis summer is intensely hot, frequently exceeding 120 degrees in the shade, with high humidity along the coasts. In winter, temperatures sometimes drop below freezing in the

Countries of the Middle East

(Continued from previous page)

central and northern areas, but snow and ice are rare.

Oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia by American geologists in the 1930's, although large-scale production did not begin until after World War II. With the discovery of the largest oil reserves in the world, this country made rapid development both economically and socially during the 1960's and 1970's.

Recent estimates show Saudi Arabia's population at about 11 million, including some 4 million resident foreigners. Until the 1960's, most of the population was nomadic or seminomadic; however, rapid economic growth has urbanized some 95 percent of the population. Some cities and oases have a population density of 2,000 people per square mile.

The central institution of the Saudi Arabian government is the monarchy, presently under the reign of King Fahd bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud. The authority of the monarchy is based on Islamic law (Sharia).

The kingdom is divided into 14 provinces, which are governed by princes or close relatives of the royal family. All governors are appointed by the king. Despite rapid progress, Saudi society remains strongly conservative and religious, with a tribal orientation. The king encourages modernization without undermining the country's stability and Islamic heritage.

KUWAIT

Kuwait's modern history began in the 18th century with the founding of the city of Kuwait by the Uteiba section of the Anazita tribe, who wandered north

from Qatar. The country experienced a long association with the British and the United Kingdom until June 1961, when it became independent.

Slightly smaller than New Jersey, Kuwait has a population of about one million. The inhabitants consist of some 84 percent Arab, with the remaining composed of South Asians, Iranians, and Southeast Asians.

Arabic is the primary language spoken in Kuwait, but English is also widely used. Moreover, the Kuwaitis enjoy free public schools and a college education in the U.S. or other countries if qualified or desired. They have an overall 70 percent literacy rate, which is among the highest in the Arab world.

In recent years, Kuwait has been known as one of the wealthiest countries in the world. From the latest data, the per capita gross domestic product was more than \$10,000.

The Kuwaitis' wealth is largely based on their dominant export of oil and capital. Oil accounts for about 85 percent of merchandise exports and for the same percentage of government revenues.

Kuwait's northern border with Iraq dates from an agreement with Turkey in 1913. Although the agreement was never formally ratified, Iraq accepted it in 1932 upon independence from Turkey. However, Iraq claimed Kuwait in 1961, contending that before British intervention, it had been part of the Ottoman Empire under Iraqi suzerainty.

Although incidents on the Iraq-Kuwait border have occurred since March 1973, Kuwait has, until now, enjoyed generally

friendly relations with its Arab neighbor. This friendship was marked by Kuwait's \$14 billion in loans to Iraq and allowing shipment of goods through Kuwaiti territory during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war that began in 1980.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates is a loose federation of seven small city-states or emirates, each with its own ruler called emir. There are no political parties. The emirates are Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ras al-Khaimah, and Fujairah. They control a land area about the size of Maine.

Each city-state's ruler sets the pace for his respective local government's evolution from traditional to modern. Under the provisional construction of 1971, each emirate reserves considerable powers, including control over mineral rights, taxation, and police powers. The constitution established a president of the Supreme Council, serving a 5-year term.

The terrain is largely desert with some agricultural areas. Similar to others in the Gulf region, the emirates' climate is hot and dry.

Before oil production, the UAE economy was dominated by fishing, agriculture and herding. Since the rise of oil prices in 1973, however, petroleum has dominated the economy, which accounts for nearly all of its export earnings.

About 1.2 million people live in the emirates. Only about 20 percent of the inhabitants are UAE citizens. The majority of the residents are foreign, principally Arab males, Iranians, Pakistani, and Asian Indians.

Known as the Union Defense Force, the UAE military has some 43,000 members. Their hardware includes 207 tanks, 155 artillery pieces and rocket launchers, 60 aircraft, and 90 helicopters, as reported by the London's International Institute of Strategic Studies statistics. There are less than 2,000 people in the UAE Air Force.

The U.S. and UAE have a friendly relationship. However, like many Persian Gulf countries, the UAE is geared more to the Arab world. Their Arab ties are linked through a shared religion, language, culture, and history.

JORDAN

Jordan is part of the Fertile Crescent -- a land area that has shared much of the glory and travail of that richly historical region. Its history began around 2000 B.C., when Semitic Amorites settled around the Jordan River in the area called Canaan. Subsequent invasions and conquests included those by neighboring kingdoms, Greeks, Romans, Christian Crusaders, and the British.

After the British occupied the Jordan area for more than 30 years, the country became the independent Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan on May 25, 1946. The country was renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1950. Throughout this time, the kingdom continued to have a special defense with the British until 1957, when the treaty was dissolved by mutual consent.

When the State of Israel was proclaimed, Jordan joined other Arab states in opposition to this action, which resulted in open warfare. The armistice agreements of April 3, 1949, established armistice demarcation lines between Jordan and Israel, leaving Jordan in control of the West Bank. Subsequently, Jordan had numerous confrontations with the Israelis. It lost the West Bank to the Israelis during the 1967 war -- a land area of much contention.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy, with King Hussein I as the central figure. The king has weathered a series of difficult crises and has always had strong and loyal support from the Jordan Arab Army.

Similar to other Arab geographical areas, Jordan is a country of rocky deserts, mountains, and rolling plains. Some 88 percent of the land is desert or waste, with only 11 percent under agriculture, and 1 percent is forested.

The climate is Mediterranean with a rainy season from November to March and dry weather for the rest of the year. The temperature ranges from an average of 50 degrees Fahrenheit in January to an average of 90 degrees in August.

Jordan is a small country with limited natural resources. Unlike many of its oil-rich neighbors, Jordan is dependent on imported crude oil and fuel oil. However, it has developed its phosphate deposits and established a number of light industries.

Relations between Jordan and the U.S. have been close for more than three decades. On the other hand, Jordan has strong ties with other Arab countries through language, culture, and religion.

IRAN

Iran was known in ancient times as Persia, and once a major empire in its

own right. Frequently, the country was overrun by invaders. However, Iran always reasserted its national individuality and has emerged from its tribulations as a political and cultural entity.

Almost two-thirds of Iran's people are Aryan origin -- their ancestors migrated from Central Asia. The major groups in this category include Persians, Kurds, Lurs, and Baluchi. The remainder are primarily Turks, but also include Arabs, Armenians, Jews, and Assyrians.

Many dynasties have ruled Iran. However, modern Iranian history began with uprisings that led to the establishment of the Shah as the ruling figure -- a leadership that endured for over 50 years. Domestic turmoil swept the country as a result of religious and political opposition to the Shah's rule in 1978. The deposed Shah was replaced with a Muslim clergy that was granted broad powers by the Iranian constitution in 1979.

Iran's economy is based on crude oil production and some agriculture. The country has experienced some significant setbacks. Economic activity, already severely disrupted as a result of the revolution, has been depressed further by the war with Iraq and the decline in oil prices. Iran is yet to fully recover from the wartime destruction of its oil refineries and power stations.

Postal tips given for writing troops

Washington (AFNS) -- Writing to people deployed in the middle east can be more complicated than sending a normal letter, Air Force officials said.

There are reports that foreigners in the deployment area may be acquiring personal information from mail discarded by U.S. service members.

Air Force officials said people deployed or deploying to Operation Desert Shield should ensure that address information is removed and destroyed from personal mail before it is discarded. If you are writing to deployed personnel, be sure to request these precautions are taken.

Anyone who receives suspicious mail which appears to have been tampered

with should report it immediately to postal authorities the officials said.

Mailing hints

People sending parcels to military members in Saudi Arabia are asked not to include alcoholic beverages or sexually explicit literature.

Saudi Arabian customs officials are monitoring incoming mail and destroying items that they consider offensive, including alcohol and pornographic materials.

There are two addresses for writing to service members who may not be receiving mail:

U. S. NAVY:

ANY SERVICE MEMBER
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD
FPO NEW YORK
09866-0006

FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES:
ANY SERVICE MEMBER
OPERATION DESERT SHIELD
APO NEW YORK
09848-0006

Note: The any service member address is used when writing to any service member-at-large. Specific APO addresses should be used when writing to specific individuals.

Reservists gain pay incentives

(AFRNS) -- The 1991 Defense Authorization Act offers several pay benefits for reservists supporting Operation Desert Shield.

These incentives include the following:

- Up to an extra \$110 a month for imminent danger pay, retroactive to Aug. 1. Reservists receive this pay based on a daily rate of \$3.66 per day. To qualify, they must serve at least six days a month in the Persian Gulf. Some reservists had already begun receiving the pay retroactive to Sept. 19.

- Immediate variable housing allowance for reservists called to active duty in the Middle East or to replace active-duty people in the States. Before, reservists had to be on a 140-day tour to receive VHA, a supplement to basic allowance for quarters based on housing costs.

- Special pays and bonuses for medical personnel previously paid only to active-duty people.

- Cash payments for any unused leave at the end of reservists' call-up, even if

reservists with prior military service had cashed in leave at the end of their previous active service. Previously the law limited people to receiving payments for 60 days of unused leave during their military career.

Although the president signed the authorization bill Nov. 6, these benefits do not take effect until they are implemented by Department of Defense and Air Force directives.

Desert lifeforms can make life brutal

By Maj. Chris S. Crnich
419th Tactical Hospital

Service personnel deployed to Operation Desert Shield are finding the desert brutally inhospitable in many ways.

The obvious concerns of sun, heat, wind, sand and lack of water must constantly be respected and protected against. Numerous lifeforms are just waiting to take advantage of a prospective new host in the desert wastes.

Dogs, foxes and jackals can carry rabies. Once contracted, the chances of recovering from this deadly disease are slim. Remember all these animals should be considered infected and therefore avoided. The rabies virus is primarily transmitted in saliva from a bite wound through the skin.

Snakes, scorpions and spiders, the triple "s" of bites, cause many painful poisonous injections to the body. These can run into everything from a painful spot of inflammation to death.

The safest posture is avoidance. Check carefully areas that are dark and undisturbed.

If walkers and crawlers aren't enough, there are several flying insects in the Gulf deserts that also bite. Mosquitoes can transmit malaria. Normal mosquito avoidance and repellents are strongly encouraged if visiting the areas of mosquito inhabitation.



Sandflies are another prominent pest. This very small night biter can also spread hazardous diseases including a viral disease called sandfly fever or a protozoan disease called Leishmaniasis. Both conditions are debilitating, but

Leishmaniasis has up to a 95 percent mortality rate if untreated. Netting repellents and clothing are the best bet for preventing initial bites.

Fighter unit to support Desert Shield

(AFRNS) -- The first Air Force Reserve fighter aircraft unit has been called up in support of Operation Desert Shield with a Jan. 13 reporting date.

The 926th Tactical Fighter Group, an A-10 Thunderbolt II unit from NAS New Orleans, La., was alerted in late November to the call-up. This is the first time an AFRES fighter unit has been called to support Operation Desert Shield. It is also the first time an AFRES fighter unit has ever been called to support an active duty contingency.

Reserve fighter units are subject to call-up for as many as 180 days, with the possibility of extension for another 180 days.

403rd supports Desert Shield at Holloman AFB

by Sgt. Roy Godfrey
403d CLSS Public Affairs

Three members of the 403d Combat Logistics Support Squadron's Supply and Transportation team returned home recently from Holloman AFB, New Mexico, after spending two weeks in joint support of "Operation Desert Shield."

TSgt. Freeman Pittman, SSgt. Williams Oakes and SSgt. Brenda Love-Burgess along with members of the 404th CLSS, Kelly AFB, Tx. and 405th CLSS, Hill AFB, Ut., reported to the 4449 MOBBS/LGT at Holloman AFB. Their mission was to package, crate, block and brace war readiness machinery for Desert Shield.

"You name it, we got it ready to ship."

After teams were broken into three shifts for continuous operations, TSgt. Pittman, 403d Team Chief, said, a multitude of items were prepared for shipping. "Expandable Service Containers, General Purpose Buildings, War Readiness Spare Kits, air conditioners, you name it and we got it ready to ship," TSgt. Pittman said.



ABOVE: TSgt. Freeman Pittman, cuts lumber for shipping crates.

BELOW: SSgt. William Oakes labors at crate construction. (U.S. Air Force photos)



Additional training was received by all three CLSS teams in the operation of a forklift, radial arm saws, rip saws, pneumatic nail and staple guns. TSgt. Pittman stated all team members displayed an outstanding teamwork attitude with other members of the other two CLSS.

He said, "I am proud to say, during the time we were there, with all the freight we were moving, not once was there an accident or safety violation. If we are called back again, I know we will be ready."

Reserve gets tactical airlift mission

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- The 1991 Department of Defense Authorization Bill calls for the transfer of DOD's tactical airlift mission to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard by Sept. 30, 1992.

AFRES units provide 25 percent of the Air Force's tactical airlift force. The active force has some 190 C-130 aircraft in five units.

The bill also calls for restoring the following aircraft, and reserve and air reserve technician slots:

- Peterson AFB, Colo. -- four C-130B aircraft, 119 reserve slots and 32 ARTs.

- Eglin Aux. Field 3, Fla. -- one AC-130A, 70 reserve slots and 17 ARTs.

- Portland IAP, Ore. -- one HC-130, 37 reserve slots and 10 ARTs.

- Carswell AFB, Texas -- six F-16A/B fighters, 151 reserve slots and 35 ARTs.

- Homestead AFB, Fla. -- one HH-3 helicopter, 14 reserve slots and five ARTs.

Provisions of the bill are in keeping with Congress' philosophy of making greater use of the Guard and Reserve. Highlights of that philosophy addressed in the authorization bill include:

- The structure and strength of the current reserve components should be preserved.

- The equipment levels in existing reserve component units should be

increased to match those of active-duty units.

- Selected missions of the active components of the Armed Forces should be increasingly transferred to the reserve components.

- The equipment available to the units of the reserve components should be modernized.

- The integration of active component and reserve component units be promoted as a means of achieving the Total Force Policy of the Department of Defense.

Congress commended the Guard and Reserve for their valuable contributions and pledged to continue to support their essential roles.

Pay for freelancing prohibited

Service members and federal civilians who moonlight as freelance writers or speakers won't be able to accept pay for their efforts beginning Jan. 1.

A provision of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 prohibits federal employees -- including military personnel -- from accepting "honoraria" for any off-duty "speech, article or appearance."

The ban applies whether or not the article, speech or appearance is related to a member's or employee's job. Previously, only payments for speech or writings that were related to, or interfered with, a government employee's job were banned.

The maximum penalty under the new law is a fine of \$10,000 or the amount of prohibited honoraria received, whichever is greater.

The Office of Government Ethics intends to propose legislation lifting the ban on pay for freelancing that has no connection to a federal worker's job. But, since the law will take effect before Congress will be able to consider its proposal, OGE has given these definitions that apply to the new prohibition:

-- Honorarium: "a payment of money or anything of value for an appearance, speech or article by a member, officer or employee, excluding any actual or necessary travel expenses incurred by such individual (and one relative) to the extent that such expenses are paid or reimbursed by any other person..."

-- Appearance: "attendance at a public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, or like gathering, and the incidental conversation or remarks made at that time."

-- Speech: "an address, oration, or other form of oral presentation, regardless of whether presented in person, recorded, or broadcast over the media."

-- Article: "a writing other than a book, which has been or is intended to be published."

Service members and civilians will be able to accept pay for performances as entertainers or artists, such as musicians or actors in stage productions. Payment for works of fiction, poetry, lyrics or scripts will be allowed. Pay for private teaching, such as music lessons, will not be prohibited.

In addition, OGE is excluding some forms of compensation from the definition of honorarium. For example, people may receive meals incidental to an appearance; copies of publications in which one of their articles appears; awards from artistic, literary or oratorical competitions; and pay for multiple presentations while teaching a state- or locally-funded course or as part of the regular curriculum of an accredited institution of higher learning.

Service members and civilians are allowed to receive pay after Jan. 1 for freelancing performed or contracted for before the law takes effect. In order to avoid violating the new law, they may also divert an honorarium of \$2,000 or less to a charitable organization approved as tax-free by the Internal Revenue Service. However, they may not deduct that amount from their income taxes as a charitable contribution, and members of their family may not receive any special benefits from the recipient organization other than those it normally provides.

Decontamination procedures

Knowing what to do is half the battle

Editor's Note: with the 507th's Operational Readiness Inspection only three months away, the following information is provided to refresh everyone's memory of proper decontamination procedures.

*By TSgt. Vincent Molzahn
507th Disaster Preparedness*

Knowing what to do and when to do it can literally make or break a unit during an ORI. In the "real world" it can also mean the difference between life and death.

Rapid decontamination is not the job of the decontamination teams. It is everyone's job. It depends on personal ingenuity, initiative and common sense. Everyone must help to prevent the spread of contamination.

Here are a few tips on what you can do:

Keep containers of water, soap and brushes handy inside or under cover.

After an attack, look for chemical spills, spread flour on it, and use ropes and cones to seal the area off. Then report it. The area decon team will come wash it away if it is a large area.

Before entering a vehicle, wash all areas a person may come in contact with like door handles, footrests, etc.) Check the M-8 paper on the vehicle and replace the paper if contaminated.

As soon as possible, take your vehicle to vehicle decon station for detailed cleaning. Note: All vehicles that were contaminated must go through the vehicle decon station after you have expediently cleaned them, and your mission allows.

When using equipment that has been contaminated, wash areas that have flour. The M258A Training Decon kit works well for small equipment items.

There are ten commandments of contamination avoidance:

1. Cover all equipment before an attack to prevent contamination.

2. Be careful when covering explosives--plastic covers build static charges rapidly.

3. Keep all aircraft canopies, hatches, vehicle and building windows and doors and mask carriers closed to prevent interior contamination.

4. Check suspect liquids with M8 paper/M9 paper before touching surfaces after an attack.

5. Report contamination to a control center immediately by any available means.

6. Decontaminate surfaces prior to touching to prevent the spread of contamination.

7. Mark contaminated areas using expedient methods and warn coworkers until the area can be properly marked.

8. Avoid areas which are marked as hazardous.

9. Limit access to mission critical equipment and facilities to reduce the possibility of spreading contamination.

10. Disperse your equipment and personnel by type and specialty to reduce the chance of all of one type or specialty becoming contaminated during a single attack.



(AFNS) The U.S. government is covering a federal employee's share of health benefit premiums while employees are performing active military service in support of Operation Desert Shield.

A recent Office of Personnel Management regulation waives employees' Federal premiums for those who continue their coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program while in a leave without pay status. The regulation applies to federal employees who are reservists and ordered to active duty under selected sections of Title 10, United States Code.

Reservists who volunteer must serve in support of Desert Shield to qualify for this benefit. They can show proof of eligibility by having a statement such as "Active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield" included on their orders. If this is not done, reservists can request a letter from their unit commander stating participation in Operation Desert Shield.

**Government paying
Federal employee
health benefits**

Reserve News you can use

Desert Shield reservists gain privileges

Air Force Reservists called to active duty for Operation Desert Shield are entitled to full commissary and exchange privileges which include shopping at commissaries, base exchanges, Class Six stores, base theaters and other exchange facilities.

Dependents of reservists on active duty may also use the commissary and base exchange an unlimited number of times as long as the sponsor is in an active-duty military status. This includes the use of exchange service mail-order catalogs.

Any reservist or family member experiencing problems gaining access to either commissaries or exchanges should contact the store manager.

More benefits on horizon

(AFNS) Air Force Reservists in the selected reserve may soon have unlimited privileges at Base Exchanges and revenue-generating Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities such as Recreation Equipment Issue and golf courses.

Reservists currently must accrue privileges through participation or use facilities while performing an active-duty tour. The change in policy is the result of the 1991 Defense Authorization Act and should take effect before March 16.

Reservists will only need their Reserve identification card to shop. Family members will be able to use facilities if they accompany their sponsor or have an Air Force form 447, Reserve dependent ID card.

AFMPC service call number

(AFNS) -- To encourage feedback from its customers, the Air Force Military Personnel Center offers a 24-hour-a-day services complaints number.

People wanting to express an opinion about services provided by anyone in AFMPC can call DSN 487-5475 or

commercial (512) 652-5475. The number applies only to services provided by AFMPC.

"If you feel you were treated insensitively or unjustly by the staff of the Air Force Military Personnel Center, I'd like to know about it," Maj. Gen. Billy J. Boles, AFMPC commander, said. "I'd like to fix any problem or clear up any misunderstanding."

If opinions or complaints concern a consolidated base personnel office, major command or separate operating agency personnel representative, comments should be addressed to officials at those levels.

General Boles reviews all calls to AFMPC's services complaints number and appropriate responses are provided.

Callers should leave their name, rank, social security number, duty phone and an address.

OPSEC: Desert Shield deployment video, slides and photographs

By direction of the Secretary of Defense, photographs taken in country during Operation Desert Shield must be reviewed before they are released or published. This applies for internal or external release.

The screening process is to ensure the photographs do not contain classified or sensitive material. This applies to all personnel, especially those who have developed slide presentation or collages as visuals for speaking engagements.

For more information or screening procedures, contact the public affairs office at 734-3078 or extension 4-3078.

Refer news media to public affairs office

The chief of public affairs is the official spokesman for the group commander on all matters relating to the 507th Tactical Fighter Group.

Periodically, news media representatives directly contact Air Force Reserve members and defense Department civilian employees for information, interviews or reactions to

local or national stories. Such requests should be referred to the public affairs office.

New uniform items available

(AFNS) Five new uniform items are now, or soon will be, available in military clothing stores.

The new items are:

- *Optional belted women's slacks with belt loops and tapered legs. The belt is worn with the silver end of the buckle extending beyond the buckle facing to the right of the wearer, with no blue fabric showing.

- *All-polyester maternity service coat. The new maternity coat will be provided by clothing allowance Oct. 1, replacing the maternity tunic. There is no phase-out date set for the maternity tunic.

- *A narrow, 1-inch women's belt. The belt can be worn with the belted skirt and slacks.

- *The women's new style service coat, compatible with the princess line blouse. Insignia and other devices are worn the same way as they are worn on the women's blazer.

- *A new shade 1608 service dress uniform replacing the shade 1578 uniform as the basic training issue item. It is now available in clothing sales stores. There is no phase out date for the shade 1578 uniform.

Reg outlines relationships

A new Air Force regulation, 35-62, address fraternization and professional relationships. Personal relationships between Air Force members become matters of official concern when they adversely affect morale, discipline or mission accomplishment.

Fraternization is an improper personal relationship between an officer and enlisted member. However, the regulation specifically recognizes that personal relationships between any two members of different grades or positions may be unprofessional.