



Reservists visit Nigerien school

By Tech. Sgt. Chance Babin
926th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

CAMP TONDIBIAH, Niger (AFPN) —

A group of eager children gathered inside a local school, just outside the gates of the base, to hear their American visitors talk about health care.

Maj. (Dr.) Joe Alvarez and Capt. Andrew Gibson paid a visit to the school while taking a short break from working at the clinic. The two were part of a 12-person Air Force Reserve medical team that was here as part of a humanitarian mission.

"I was a little apprehensive, because it was going to take time away from the clinic," said Dr. Alvarez, a dentist from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "But after it was all done, I saw the importance of the contribution to the children's well-being."

Dr. Alvarez handed each of the more than 30 12- to 15-year-olds toothbrushes showing them the proper way to brush their teeth and discussed nutritional aspects of eating refined sugars. Throughout the session, the students and teachers asked questions.

"Although the class was crowded and hot, the kids were extremely attentive and disciplined and eager to hear our words," Dr. Alvarez said. "I thought their questions were good."

For Captain Gibson, a physician's assistant with the 6th Medical Group at MacDill AFB, Fla., the topic of discussion



NEAR CAMP TONDIBIAH, Niger — Maj. (Dr.) Joe Alvarez and translator Hamadou Soumana demonstrate the proper use of a toothbrush at a local school. Dr. Alvarez was part of an Air Force Reserve humanitarian mission in Niger. He is a dentist with the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chance Babin)

was general health care and hygiene.

"I asked them how many wash their hands after using the toilet," Captain Gibson said. "About half of them raised their hands. They were amused by that question, but it served to connect me with the students."

Captain Gibson also gave each child a pack of multivitamins and a packet of medicine to treat worms. The vast majority of children in the region are affected by worms.

"I told them one pill would treat them for worms in their digestive tract and to take the extra pills home to treat family members," he said.

The medics said they considered the school visit a highlight of the mission. Although they saw children every day

while walking to the clinic, the opportunity to interact with them directly was memorable for both.

"I think young minds are very impressionable, and if our visit spurs one student to improve his [or her] life, then it was definitely a worthwhile venture," Captain Gibson said. "Moreover, it raises their awareness of what causes disease and illness and the simple things they can do that can have a dramatic effect on their health and well-being."

Even though some of the students are studying English, translator Hamadou Soumana, a Nigerien citizen, was there to translate the conversation into French.

"It was really nice," Mr. Soumana said. "It's really fun to get the children

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The value of friendship

By Capt. Chaplain Bill Dickens
445th Chaplain Office

This month we will gather with old friends to give Master Sgt. Theresa Amato, Headquarters Staff former 1st Sergeant, a fond send-off as she heads into retirement. This will be a wonderful time to gather with old friends and unit members. Being a part of a wonderful organization like the 445th gives us ample opportunities to make some life-long friendships.

An important part of real friendship is true concern for others. Often we get so bogged down in the day-to-day grind of our jobs or the mission that we forget to care for one another. In Luke 5:17-20, we are told about some men who wanted Jesus to heal their paralyzed friend, however, because of the crowd they could not get to Jesus. These enterprising men would not be deterred. They pulled back the roof of the building and lowered their paralyzed friend into the room and Jesus healed him.

Friendship is more than a stiff handshake and pat on the back. Friendship shows itself in an attitude of concern and acts of service. Go out of your way to be a true friend to someone this month.

Good News/Bad News

By Col. James Blackman
445th Operation Group Commander

You are all (justifiably) concerned when you hear someone claim that they “have some good news and some bad news.” I think that we have all learned in these scenarios that whatever good may be present will, more than likely, be offset by the bad news. Well, given your elevated rate of participation in support of our high opstempo for the Global War on Terror, I have some good news and some bad news:



The good news is that you are as proficient as you have ever been.

The bad news is that you are as proficient as you have ever been.

Guess what – the good news is that we can avoid the bad news with a little bit of care and discipline.

Many of you have been called upon to perform your military roles on a full-time basis - whether you have been activated, are performing an extended AEF or volunteer tour, or have been increasing your support to the unit at home station. You have left the realm of training, lectures, and CBTs and have graduated from the school of hard knocks as you have met real and unforeseen challenges in our evolving support for the GWOT. We have flown more hours, repaired more aircraft, treated more patients, and deployed to more diverse locales than nearly any other time in our military experience. We have become very good at what we do through repetition, challenge, and effort. We can fly blacked-out tactical approaches to

austere airfields. We can treat the most serious combat casualty in the field or in flight. We can fix complex aircraft systems in bad weather with limited supplies. We can do most every task better than we could before. We’re very good.

The bad news may be that, when we are proficient and comfortable with a task, we may get complacent or over-confident. We have so much to do with so much at stake that we may be tempted to ignore a checklist. We may decide to perform a two-person repair task by ourselves. We may push weather limits. We may try any one of a hundred shortcuts that seem to be within our perceived elevated skill level. We may have become convinced that we are bulletproof.

Well, its not news that none of us is bulletproof. Despite our skills, anyone of us can be hurt, can cause hurt, or can contribute to mission failure if we do not follow the lessons that got us here. The procedures work, the checklists are mandatory, and the limitations are limiting. Keep up those good habits that got you this far – take your time when you’re able, refer to instructions and guidance when you can, and be a good team member. Watching out for each other and keeping communication lines open may be our best defense. I feel that some timely awareness and personal discipline can prevent the risks of complacency and over-confidence. We can maintain our peak proficiency with justifiable pride while avoiding the pitfalls of relaxed personal standards. We’re good enough to realize this.

Thanks for considering these thoughts for a minute and my deep appreciation to you all for your continuing service and sacrifice.

Okay - The good news is that we are all going to be issued parachutes. The bad news is . . .

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Nigerien school. . .

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involved. They didn't expect the visit. It might be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them."

The visit was also an experience for the three teachers who were present.

"The teachers also learned a lot," Mr. Soumana said. "They will surely pass the information to others."

"We learned a lot about medical, especially related to stomachaches and tooth care," said French teacher Zakari Djibo through Mr. Soumana's translation. "They have been very nice to us and allowed us to ask questions. I am sure we'll benefit from it one day, and we'll remember the visit forever."

For student Moussa Seydou, 15, the visit was a welcomed experience.

"It's nice that they have been here," he said through a translator. "We are happy to learn about basic health and medicine. Everybody is excited.

"I learned how to brush teeth and how to prevent worms," he said. "We are happy to get vitamins and worm medicine."

The visit also allowed the medics to correct some of the misguided beliefs the Nigeriens held on some health-care issues. For example, some of the children believed that a person could get a cavity from using someone else's toothbrush.

"It helped them get rid of some prejudices," Mr. Soumana said. "This is very important."

"It was nice to be able to dispel some of their wildly held beliefs that were well-intentioned, but wrong," Dr. Alvarez said.

Once the reservists were finished talking with the students and teachers, the teachers thanked them for their time and help, and said they hoped it would not be the last time they talk to one another.

"We exchanged addresses and e-mail in hopes that they will contact us so we can stay in touch and continue to inspire them to better their existence," Captain Gibson said.



Photo by Maj. Ted Theopolos

Tech. Sgt. Brad Roate stands in front of a photo board hanging in the recruiters office of recruits he helped to get in the wing. Sgt. Roate has put enough recruits in the wing to be considered as a candidate for Air Force Reserve Commands "New Recruiter of the Year."

Reserve recruiters exceed goal for 4th straight year

*By Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Public Affairs*

For the fourth year in a row, Air Force Reserve Command recruiters exceeded the command goal and the 445th Airlift Wing recruiters helped.

The command recruited 9,636 new recruits of which 445th recruiters had 310 accessions. The wings goal for fiscal year was 229, but recruiters exceeding their goal by 91 accessions.

Even though the 445th AW has 530 activated reservists, it has not detoured young Americans from joining.

"These guys worked hard and we made goal early in the year," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Bibby, senior recruiter for the wing.

"I've had a whole new crew of recruiters come on board this year," said Sgt. Bibby. "I'm impressed with the job they did."

Col. Francis Mungavin, AFRC Recruiting Service commander, congratulated members of the service for their accomplishment in an Aug. 31 e-mail.

"I cannot tell you all how proud I am of you all," he wrote. "Our objective is to ensure the command is 100 percent effectively manned. It's a continuous process. Every year we go from hero to zero."

In addition to making goal early, the command had its highest percentage of successful recruiters. Of the 284 recruiters, more than 80 percent made goal.

"Tech. Sgt. James Bauer made Century Club this year," said Sgt. Bibby. "Tech. Sgt. Brad Roate, a new recruiter is in the running for "New Recruiter of the Year" with all he has done this year."

In a letter Sept. 1, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, AFRC commander, congratulated the Recruiting Service people for exceeding their annual recruiting goal for the fourth consecutive year. He called their achievement a "grand slam."

"Most impressive was your push to access more than 2,300 recruits during July and August alone, demonstrating your urgency to man AFRC," wrote the general. "I know I can count on your continued aggressive recruiting efforts. ... You continue to lead the Department of Defense in accessions per production recruiter."

Air Force Reserve Command recruiting conference will be held in Nashville, Tenn., the first week of October. Sgt. Bibby is looking forward to the conference to see his recruiters be recognized for all their hard work.

(AFRC News Service release contributed to this story)



Graphic by SrA Chris Polites

Honor Guard members post the colors during the 9-11 Ceremony. Col. Bruce Davis, commander of the 445th Airlift Wing speaks before a crowd of sixty reservists recalling the days events three years ago.

Reservists gather for Patriot’s Day Ceremony

By Airman First Class Bethany Colson
445th Public Affairs

About sixty reservists gathered in front of the 445th Airlift Wing headquarters building on Saturday morning at to participate in a 9-11 Memorial Service. Wing members stood in formation in the street, which had been closed for the occasion, and faced the flag. A comfortable morning sunshine warmed the solemn mood created by tiny American flags surrounding the flag pole and yellow ribbons adorning two nearby trees. The red, white, and blue decorations added a true patriotic theme this September 11th, appropriately called Patriot’s Day.

Col. Bruce Davis, commander 445 AW and Vice Commander Col. Keith Kries, along with Wing Chaplain Bill Dickens were the speakers for the event. Also attending was Tech. Sgt. Connie Braswell joined by her sister, brother, and husband in an acappella quartet to sing the National Anthem.

The ceremony began as the Honor Guard proudly posted the colors while the National Anthem was sung. After the invocation, Chaplain Dickens began by

recounting the exact time and location of each attack that occurred on September 11, 2001. Taking his text from the biblical book of Joshua, he goes on to urge his listeners to “be strong and courageous.” The chaplain referenced Joshua’s call for a monument in chapter four as he reminded his audience that we were living memorials of those lost in the infamous disaster gathering to “renew our commitment to their memory.” A moment of silence and personal reflection is offered in memory of the 3000 lives lost in the September atrocity.

Both Col. Davis and Col. Kries reiterate Chaplain Dickens’ encouragement and reflection as they each acknowledged the affects of September 11 and the War on Terrorism experienced personally here at Wright-Patt.

Col. Kries took a moment to remember Maj. Leroy Homer Jr., who was the first officer aboard Flight 93 that went down in Pennsylvania. Six months prior to his death, Maj. Homer had been an instructor pilot with the 445th AW. His name patch hangs in the pilot’s break room still today.

Other wing involvements on that

historical day included transporting 22 surgical, trauma, and critical-care specialists from the base hospital along with pallets of blood and medical supplies on a C-141 to McGuire AFB, N.J. Five air crews, including aeromedical evacuation teams, went on stand-by status. Many other members of the 445th also maintained a high level of participation. Col. Davis used the opportunity to remind the Wing to continue to be strong because the War on Terrorism “is not going to end soon,” he said.

Tech. Sgt. Braswell and her family quartet came forward again to sing the first verse of “God Bless America” before Chaplain Dickens closed the ceremony. He finished by describing Americans as a people of “infinite spirit” needing to find “strength and resolve” to “move forward despite our fears.”

Staff Sgt. Terry Resinger and Senior Airman Benjamin Bratka, both members of the 445th headquarters, each expressed appreciation for the memorial service. Both reservists felt that the event was a good reminder and good time of reflection.



DMRTI returns to Wright-Patt

They're back

By Maj. Scott Williams
445th ASTS

The 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) again welcomed back the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute's (DMRTI) instructors. The instructors were here to teach multi-service trauma/burn certification courses.

Members from the Army, Navy, and Air Force attended the three-day course that covered three significant trauma medical training classes, Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS), Trauma Nursing Care Course (TNCC), and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) courses. The courses ranged in length from the eight hour ABLS course to the 16-hour TNCC and PHTLS courses. Courses were offered to senior medical technicians, nurses, doctors and paramedics. Unique to this year's presentation was the mirror force participation of our active duty counterparts from the 74th Medical Group here at Wright-Patt.

The ABLS course focused on the advanced care of burned and injured soldiers and other patients. The other two courses, TNCC and PHTLS, focused more on the events and procedures surrounding pre-hospital treatment through emergency room trauma assessment and treatment.

The trauma nurses course was for nurses, auditing senior med tech, paramedics and dealt with emergency room rapid trauma assessment and treatment.

The pre-hospital course involved events preceding movement to a medical facility such as pre-hospital response techniques, vehicle extraction and on-site trauma management.

Courses provided attendees with hands-on scenarios dealing with vehicle extractions, spinal immobilizations and many other valuable experiences often seen in real life. Pending completion of these courses attendees receive national certification.



Photo by Maj. Scott Williams

(From left to right) Nurses Capt. Jenny Cause, Maj. Philip Frederick and Capt. Margaret Muslinsky listen to medical instructor Capt. Ellis.

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute is headquartered at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Instructors, like U.S. Army Lt Col (select) Denise Hopkins the DMRTI instructor and program director, from the institute travel all over the country teaching many different courses to military and civilian medical personnel. Courses are part of the DMRTI's exportable classroom environment. The exportable classroom environment improves the coordination between civilian and military organizations as well as reducing duplication of training efforts and cost associated with such efforts.

"It's great to have this opportunity to increase knowledge, training, and camaraderie in a very educational environment," stated Major Karen O'Connell active duty instructor and Top Star director.

"This mirror force training is imperative and timely in our current real world condition," said Capt. Amy Swets co-coordinator from the 445th ASTS. "These classes provide just in time training appropriate to our level and provision of care."

VFW Post Adopts 445 AW

By Capt. Jose Cardenas
445th Public Affairs

Under the sunny blue skies, members of the 445th Airlift Wing gathered with members and family of Huber Heights VFW Post 3238 of to pay tribute on the third anniversary of 9-11. Reflecting on these events All-State Post Commander Jack Brankamp spoke of the "unspeakable acts of horror that changed the world forever... we will honor the men, women and children that perished".

Following the memorial service Commander Brankamp presented Colonel Davis with a certificate of



photo by SVA Chris Polites

Mr. Jack Brankamp, All-State Post Commander present an adoption certificate to Col. Bruce Davis.

adoption. Colonel Davis remarked that "I am proud and honored that veterans have asked us to be associated with them".

Nationwide Veterans of Foreign War

members participated in an "adopt a unit program". This program works with the family support office providing receptions to returning service members building relationships with the unit and families.

The VFW mission is to honor the veterans and their families and to promote programs such as providing American flags, high school ROTC programs, hospital and nursing home visits as well as a host of community activities.

In return, Col. Davis presented Post 3238 with a certificate of appreciation acknowledging and honoring the dedication of the men and women of the VFW Post. Commander Brankamp continued with a request for service members to consider joining the VFW to ensure that this tradition of honoring veterans will never end.



Medical emergency brings teams together

By Maj. Ted Theopolos
445th Public Affairs

Two airliners, one landing at James M. Cox International Airport in Dayton and the other at Easter West Virginia Regional Shepard Airport, W.V., crashed while attempting to land. The cause of the two aircraft crashing at the same time is under investigation. But no matter, for medical teams it's to respond and respond quickly.

This was the scenario of a two-day medical mass casualty exercise for the 445th Aeromedical Staging and Aeromedical Evacuation squadrons. Included in the exercise was Dayton's Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). The exercise objective is to provide a seamless health and medical care to the nation in times of emergency.

The combination of crashes resulted in medical triage and three outbound aeromedical missions. Before the exercise kicked off, several hours of classroom training was conducted. Topics included field sanitation and hygiene, blast injuries, safety measures and proper use of chemical gas masks.

"As part of our annual training requirements, we do a mass casualty exercise," said Lt. Col. Valerie Jarreau exercise coordinator for the 445th AES. "The exercise prepares us to perform both wartime and peacetime missions."

"The AES mission is to support the aeromedical evacuation of patients that



2Lt. Marlo Foster, flight nurse with the 445th AES, checks paperwork of patients loaded on the C-141.



(Photos by MSgt. Doug Moore)

445th ASTS medical technicians, carry the left side of litter and members of DMAT carry the right side to transport a simulated injured patient to the awaiting C-141.

have stabilized after receiving treatment at forward medical units," said Lt. Col. Jarreau. "We partner with local emergency medical care providers, DMATS who are first responders to the casualty. By partnering with them, we develop relationships and practices that help us respond more effectively to a local emergency crisis."

"This exercise enabled us to practice our contingency skills, which includes working with our sister unit, the 445th AES, and local organizations, such as the DMAT," said Maj. Linda Stokes-Crowe, 445th ASTS director of medical readiness.

Injured passengers from the aircraft crash site would be taken to a secure location before transporting.

"The Aeromedical Staging Faculty is a holding point, where stabilized patients are provided interim care before moving

to more definitive care," said Maj. Stokes-Crowe. "Patients are moved through the aeromedical evacuations system or to other medical treatment facilities in the local area."

The exercise seemed real and became tense when things needed to come together to care and transport patients.

"At times, things were pretty chaotic and frustrating," said Capt. Julia Taylor ASTS unit deployment manager. "As I reflected on it, it was very much like my experiences when I deployed."

Exercise evaluators debriefed reservists and DMAT at the end of the exercise on what was right and what needed attention. The outcome was a renown success knowing that medical organizations can respond together to ensure the well being of its citizens in times of emergency.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Promotions

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

Airman First Class



Diane Andrew, 445 ASTS
Johndra Boles, 445 ASTS
Ryan Burtnett, 445 LRS
Bryant Corde, 445 MXS
Adam Longberry, 445 ASTS
Erica Lozano, 445 OSS
Christopher Plescher, 445 CES
Jessi Waits, 445 AMDS

Senior Airman



Adam Altenburger, 87 APS
Benjamin Altenburger, 87 APS
Amanda Edge, 445 AMDS
Timothy Emberton, 445 MXS
Pisey Es, 445 OSS
Elizabeth Goebel, 445 AES
David Gordley, 445 CES
Kristen Hubbard, 445 MXS
Nathan Hutchison, 445 AES
Gregory Kelley, 445 CES
Christopher Kuhn, 445 CES
David Leija, 445 AES
Steven Mauter, 445 AES
Nicholas Mercer, 445 AMXS
Christopher Ruff, 445 SVF
Racheal Santos, 445 AES
Matthew Scholz, 445 AMXS

Brandi Jo Stanley, 445 CES
Nicole Talbert, 445 AW
Anna Tracy, 445 LRS

Staff Sergeant



Jennifer Conry, 87 APS
Bradford Fletcher, 87 APS
Christopher Kelley, 445 CF
Jackie Nichols, 445 SFS
Cynthia Oliver, 445 ASTS
Tekera Ray, 445 ASTS
John Weaver, 445 CES
Sean Williams, 445 SFS

Technical Sergeant



Robert Bowles, 455 OSS
Chane Chalou, 445 ASTS
Victoria Errett, 89 AS
Sandi Golden Vest, 445 AES
Mark Harden, 445 ASTS
Kerry Penner, 445 MXS
Mason Poe Jr., 445 AW
Mark Reynolds, 445 AMXS
Amanda Roberts, 445 ASTS
Christina Rosier, 445 CLSS
John Ross, 445 AMXS
Chad Smallwood, 445 ASTS
Cheryl Smith, 445 ASTS
Michael Stanley, 445 AMXS
Scott Stein, 445 AMXS

Master Sergeant



Paul Dehart Jr., 445 CF

Ray Eiermann, 445 AMXS
David Filipkowski, 445 AW
Christopher Mayer, 445 SFS
Barry Nichols, 445 CES
Paul Ramp, 445 AMXS



Senior Master Sergeant

John Gram, 445 MXG
Tricia Maples, 445 AMDS
John Patterson, 445 SFS



Chief Master Sergeant

William Arehart Jr., 445 SFS

Newcomers

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

Maj. Joel Winton, 87 APS
Capt. Jeffrey Collins, 445 ASTS
Capt. Paul Grimes, 445 AW
Capt. Matthis Gutierrez, 445 ASTS
1st Lt. Jonathan Kollman, 445 AW
TSgt. Timothy Denney, 89 AS
TSgt. Anthony Gallela, 445 ASTS
TSgt. David Kravicz, 445 MXS
SSgt. Jason Barnes, 445 LRS
SSgt. Clarence Beard IV, 445 CF
SSgt. Daniel Fitzgerald, 87 APS
SSgt. James Gillespie, 445 AMXS
SSgt. Jeremy Parsons, 445 OSS
SSgt. Amy Seitz, 445 MG
SSgt. Andrew Smith, 445 CES

SSgt. Samuel Tanner, 445 MXS
SrA Wesley Baldwin, 445 MXS
SrA Sharia Bryant, 445 AMXS
SrA Russel Bullock, 445 SFS
SrA Lucas Burwitz, 445 AMXS
SrA John Harr, 445 AMXS
SrA Anel James, 445 SFS
SrA Travis Jenkins, 445 LRS
SrA Jacob Kidd, 445 SVS
SrA Leslie Lovegrove, 87 APS
SrA Eric Ropp, 445 CES
SrA Michael Rosato, 445 MXS
SrA Michael Slack, 87 APS
SrA Lisa Tyner, 445 AES
A1C Ashley Carter, 445 MXS
A1C Sean Kennedy, 445 AMXS
A1C Chad Ramey, 87 APS
A1C Nicole Talbert, 445 AW
A1C Erik Williams, 445 AMXS
AB Timothy Moser, 445 AES
AB April Murdock, 87 APS

Awards

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

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Brad Tamaro, 445 AW

Commendation Medal

MSgt. Jeffrey Foster, 445th AES



(From left to right) Tiffani Simmons, Sara DeVenzio, Lenora McIntier, Cory Simmons, and Angie Jenkins, not pictured, from the Trinity United Methodist Church donated clothing for the troops who receive medical care at Ramstein AB. Also picture is Staff Sgt. Caroline McIntier, 445th Operation Support Squadron. (Photo by Tamera Parrish)

Charitable children

*By Tamera Parrish
445th Public Affairs*

Trinity United Methodist Church located just outside of Columbus, Ohio, is the home of a small youth group with big values. The group is made up of five youngsters ranging from 12 to 17 years of age.

The group heard about the need for basic clothing items from Staff Sgt. Caroline McIntier, 445th Operation Support Squadron, and decided to get involved.

The group set up boxes at the church and people begin responding. They collected items that can be used by men and women alike. Socks, sweatshirts, t-shirts and tennis shoes were most needed.

Once the troops reach Ramstein, Germany most of them only have the uniform on their backs. Those uniforms have seen a lot of action, and most are not serviceable to wear again. The troops who receive medical care need articles of clean clothing.

The group presented their donations to Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Mouser, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. While the group may be a small group, they made a big effort to show their support for our troops.

445 AW

Briefs



Spotlight
on this
UTA

Training

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Annual Combined Federal Campaign Kicks Off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The 2004-2005 Combined Federal Campaign began Sept. 1 in the continental United States and runs through Dec. 15. Overseas, the campaign runs Oct. 1 through Dec. 15.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the local federal coordinating committee and are available through the installation CFC project officers.

Last year, federal workers reached into their pockets to donate nearly \$250 million during the campaign.

The campaign was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here. This annual fall fundraising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

On average, one in four federal employees or their family members will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to officials.

Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

The CFC Web site at www.opm.gov/cfc has more information. *(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

Welcome to the Volunteer Reserve System (VRS) Online

The Volunteer Reserve System (VRS) Online web site, <https://vrs.afrc.af.mil>, is provided by volunteer Air Force Reservists as a service to organizations with short-term, funded assignment vacancies and reservists capable of filling these needs. The intent is to provide organizations a method to advertise short-term, funded vacancies and allow reservists, many of which do not routinely have access to military networks, a method of volunteering for these assignments. This web site is operated by Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, HQ AFRC/SCOSW. Use of this system is voluntary - the assignments contained herein may not reflect all current needs.

It is the responsibility of the organizations adding assignments to ensure information is accurate and up to date. Volunteers should address requests for more assignment information to the organization or point of contact associated with the assignment. Most importantly, the reservist volunteer must secure the permission of their reserve military commander before approval of assignment.

We welcome all of your comments and suggestions regarding our VRS Web Site, submit you concerns via our feedback link .

