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### Editorial Policy

The *RMG Chronicle* is published monthly by RMG public affairs.

This Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *RMG Chronicle* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by RMG public affairs. All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the 15th of the month.

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## RMG glides through first inspection

By Capt. Kimberly Champagne  
RMG Public Affairs

After months of intense preparing and planning, the Readiness Management Group completed its first Unit Compliance Inspection Nov. 5 through 7.

The RMG earned a grade of "comply" for the UCI, meaning no discrepancies were found. Other possible UCI grades are "comply with comments," meaning some improvement is required, and "noncomply," meaning an identified core problem with significant mission impact exists.

The purpose of the UCI is to provide Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Air Force Reserve Command commander, with an independent, objective and fair evaluation of the RMG's compliance with congressional, Department of Defense, Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command policies and directives.

"Col. Nancy Zbyszinski, RMG commander, provided extraordinary support to the inspection team, and felt confident that her Airmen were ready for this inspection," said Maj. John Eggers, a member of the inspection team. "The RMG was exceptionally open with all of our inspectors, which contributed to the smooth flow and professional exchange of information."

The three day-long inspection began with UCI inspectors interview-

ing members of each RMG directorate (Personnel, Finance and Operations) on the way their area conducts business.

"The UCI required personnel to explain their processes to demonstrate mission readiness and compliance with required guidelines," said Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Greear, RMG Standardization and Evaluation NCOIC and the UCI point of contact. This included each section going through checklists with inspectors evaluating Airmen on policies and procedures.

For many Airmen, this was not their first time participating in a major inspection.

"No doubt it (the inspection) was stressful but all the preparation paid off. I followed the checklist and Air Force Instruction for each of my programs. I enjoyed the challenge," said Tech. Sgt. Teresita Ortiz, RMG Per-



**Senior Master Sgt. James Kirkley, member of the inspection team inspects Technical Sgt. Teresita Ortiz, Readiness Management Group Information Management NCOIC, Records Management Program Nov. 6. The RMG earned a grade of comply for the Unit Compliance Inspection held Nov. 5-7. Photo by Lt. Joseph Rosbury**

sonnel Information Management NCOIC.

Col. Jon Berrie, AFRC Inspector General Team Inspection chief, expressed his congratulations to the group.

"My philosophy on inspections [is that] they provide direct feedback on areas in which you can improve," he said. "With

all of our inspections, we come to help. We train, more than anything."

The inspection team noted the IMA training management and the uniform replacement programs as strengths.

They reported four major findings that require improvement; Colonel Zbyszinski noted the RMG is already addressing them.

"We have a lot of work to do but we will work together to resolve all identified areas of improvement. We have an awesome team. We didn't get here overnight. Lots of great people have contributed to make this a successful inspection. We could not have done it without the entire team, -- including people here and those on Reserve Personnel Appropriation days," Col. Zbyszinski said.



**Members of the Readiness Management Group celebrate at the outbrief Nov. 10 at the Robins Air Force Base theater, after the grade "comply" was announced. The RMG participated in a three-day Unit Compliance Inspection Nov 5-7. The purpose of a UCI is to provide an independent, objective and fair evaluation of the RMG's compliance with congressional, Department of Defense, Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command policies and directives. Photo by Claude Zazzara**



## Commander's Corner

Thanksgiving is the day we give thanks for all we have and I encourage you to share your bountiful harvest with your family and friends. But please celebrate responsibly!

Each of you holds an invaluable talent which we cannot afford to lose. Now that winter has arrived, it is imperative safety continues to be a top priority. If you're heading north, remember to pack boots, gloves, jackets and anything else that you may find handy if you find yourself stranded on the side of the road in freezing temperatures.

We can never let our guard down, and we must look out for our families and friends, and be good Wingmen.

The hazards we encounter while driving or walking on ice and snow are many.

But there are many ways you can mitigate these hazards during on-duty and off-duty activities. Use good judgment and apply composite risk management measures when driving in winter conditions.

Plan your trip wisely and, if possible, do not travel during high risk hours from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Drive defensively, and don't speed. Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination safely. Always wear your seat-belt and ensure passengers do likewise. Do the right thing, make smart decisions and do not drink and drive. Whatever your plans for Thanksgiving, have a safe and joyous holiday.

## Reserve members nominate firms for Freedom Awards

WASHINGTON — Reserve members and their families are eligible and encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees.

Nominations will be accepted at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil) now through Jan. 19. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their support of employees who serve in the Reserve.

The 2009 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, D.C., at the 14th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in September.

Recipients of the 2008 Freedom Award met with President Bush and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress and senior government and military officials.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is composed of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to these workers.

For more on the Freedom Award nomination process, visit [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

# Program helps welcome troops, families home after deployment

**Robins Air Force Base, Ga.** — Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command has a new office charged with ensuring deploying reservists and their families are well taken care of.

The Office of Deployment Cycle Support manages the command's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

"The program helps Airmen and their families face the challenges of deployment," said Col. Mary Hill, DCS director.

"It provides the family with information about the many programs and services that are available to help them and it addresses issues and concerns that families face when reintegrating back to their home communities."

Colonel Hill and Master Sgt. Juliet Alonso are the only two people currently assigned full time. They work closely with the command's Integrated Delivery System team and local IDS teams to implement the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program throughout the command.

Yellow Ribbon is a congressionally legislated



directive that dictates that "deployment support and reintegration programs shall be provided for National Guard and Reserve member and their families ... to minimize to the extent practicable the stresses of military services, particularly the stress of deployment and family separation."

The program stipulates that deployment support and reintegration programs are provided in all phases of deployment — pre-deployment, deployment, demobilization and reconstitution.

"Most of our bases already do a good job of taking care of their people," Colonel Hill said. "But the nature of reserve service makes it possible for some people to fall through the cracks."

"We want to make sure that all reservists and their families are taken care of during all steps of the deployment process," she said.

Her office will provide policy guidance, collect data on support events offered at AFRC units, identify best practices, standardize support requirements and train and support wings in meeting program requirements.

Colonel Hill currently works closely with three Air Force Reserve locations that have post-deployment events scheduled between now and January 2009. Those locations include the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker AFB, Okla., which recently welcomed back 155 security forces troops. One provision of the Department of Defense program requires National Guard and reserve components to hold reintegration activities at 30-, 60- and 90-day intervals after demobilization or the end of a deployment and that family members should also attend the events.

"This is one aspect of Yellow Ribbon that has been a bit of a stumbling block," Colonel Hill said. "Officials are still debating which family members should be included at these events and how their attendance will be funded."

"While there are still some details being worked out, the bottom line is that we are asking an awful lot of our reservist these days," she said.

"We owe it to them to make sure they and their families are taken care of. That's what Yellow Ribbon is all about."



**Senior Airman Joseph Arnold, a reservist with the 315th Security Forces Squadron, greets his son. He recently returned from Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.**

# Jeffery wins 2008 Military Golf Championship

By Capt. Kimberly Champagne  
RMG Public Affairs

This year's World Military Golf Championship located in Ottawa, Canada, featuring more than 80 active armed forces members from 13 countries, was the fifth since golf gained world championship status from the governing International Military Sports Council in 2003.

Capt. Linda Jeffrey, U.S. Strategic Command, plans and programs officer, Individual Mobilization Augmentee, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., won the women's individual title for the third consecutive year with a four-day total of 305.

Captain Jeffrey and U.S. Navy Commander Liz Breza (343) won the women's team championship.

One of the benefits of the golf competitions is building professional relationships with members of the armed forces from other countries affiliated with IMSC, which includes 20 sports.

Military sports competitions promote physical fitness and foster camaraderie and teamwork.

Captain Jeffrey said some former teammates had been unavailable because of "mission requirements."

Despite teammates serving in different areas of responsibilities, she said, the DoD decided that maintaining military sports was worth the effort.

Captain Jeffrey has been playing golf for 20 years. She is a full-time homemaker and plays golf every chance she gets.

"I started playing golf because I didn't want to run track and I got really good at it. It has been an outlet and a way to exercise. It (golf) means a lot to me," she said.

Her newest title is her 14th.

"I'm glad to be an IMA. I have great bosses that support my efforts and allow me to go to my competitions," she said.



**Captain Linda Jeffrey, Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned to U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb., recently won the women's individual title at the 2008 Military Golf Championship with a four-day total of 305. Courtesy photo**

## News Briefs, Education Information

### Master's Degree Tuition Assistance Update

The Air Force Reserve Command's Commander, Lt Gen Charles Stenner, approved an increase of tuition assistance for a Master's degree program from 75 percent to 100 percent. However, the cap remains, per member, per fiscal year, at \$ 4,500. This breaks out to \$250 per semester hour and \$166.66 per quarter hour. The increase was effective on Oct. 10 and is not authorized for retroactive payments. For more information, contact Master Sgt. W. Clayton Miller at **(478) 327-0384**.



### TRICARE Select

The TRICARE Management Activity announced new monthly rates effective Jan. 1 decreasing the current amounts for both member and family coverage.

The new rates will decrease from \$81 to \$47.51 for member only coverage and from \$253 to \$180.17 for member and family coverage.

For more information on the Tricare Reserve Select program visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm).

### New Travel Card Reminder

For Government Travel Card cardholders, the new Citibank card will be activated on Nov. 30.



Most cardholders should have received their new card in the mail and are asked to call the number on the front of the card upon receiving the card.

To make the transition smooth, cardholders are asked to use their Bank of America card up to Nov. 29 and then switch to the new Citibank card on Nov. 30. In addition, all debts to the Bank of America card will not transfer; therefore, debts are to be resolved within 210 days.

For more information contact Janice Stafford at [Janice.stafford@arpc.denver.af.mil](mailto:Janice.stafford@arpc.denver.af.mil)  
**Uniform Replacements**

As of Sept 30, the updated Standard Operating Procedure was released. According to *Air Force Instruction 36-3014*, the goal is to ensure individual reservists receive proper entitlements in regard to uniform replacement. This applies to both enlisted and officer. Enlisted members who are non-prior Air Force Reserve members will receive an allow-

ance at the beginning of their assignment and they are eligible once every two years for an additional allowance if they serve on active-duty for 90 or more consecutive days. Members are entitled to a replacement-in-kind every three years of duty. Members who are within 90 days of expired term of service are not entitled to any uniform request.



Officers are not eligible for uniform replacements.

They must purchase all uniform items as a personal expense. However, an allowance is given at the beginning of their assignment to the Air Force Reserve and they are also eligible once every two years for an additional allowance if they have served on active duty for 91 or more consecutive days. To obtain an allowance, submit an AF Form 1969 to your Reserve Pay Office.

For more information, contact RMG/ FM at **(478) 327-2294**.

### ResNet Updates

ResNet is a program that pushes information out to the military members all the way up to the unit level.

The goal is to gather the information and update the system every week, normally, Thursday's. However, if the administrator is not able to receive all the information within the allotted time, then ResNet will be updated once the information is gathered. The information is gathered normally from eight different sources, including but not limited to, MilPDS, training sources.

For more information about ResNet, call Mike Thomas at **(478) 327-0069**.

### CAC LOGIN NOW AVAILABLE FOR vPC-GR

Citizen Airmen may now access the virtual Personnel Center -- using their Common Access Card.

To set up their CAC, they must first associate their existing vPC-GR account with their card. Airmen without accounts will need to create one and then associate it with their CAC. Although the CAC option is available, it is not required. Airmen still have the option, whether their account is associated or not, to use their username and password. For more information visit, <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123121337>.

