



The Eagle's Eye

Volume 7, Issue 2

July 2017

Welcome, Mr. President!

The Military Affairs Council would like to welcome our new President, Mr. Scott Alexander. He began his term on 1 Jun 2017. Scott is a partner with Benefit Consulting Services in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Scott has been a very active member of the Military Affairs Council since he joined. He is a current member of the Board of Directors, the Vice President for Celebrate Barksdale for 2013 and 2014 and has been very active in all MAC activities including Defenders of Liberty Air Show. He was selected as the 2014 Eagle Volunteer of the Year.

Scott graduated from Louisiana State University-Shreveport in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business

Administration. He then joined the Air Force and served in Pararescue "PJs" until being injured in a HALO accident in 1996.

Upon return from the military, he went to work for Blue-Cross BlueShield of LA as an account executive, working in corporate sales until 1999 when he left to form a partnership with Scott Martin and Hedy Hebert at Benefit Consulting Services.

Over the last 18 years, he has worked



as a broker / health-care consultant with employer groups ranging in size from 2 employees to 8,000. He stays current with all legislative changes to the Affordable Care Act and represents all major Employee Benefits insurance carriers for both fully insured and partially self-funded contracts.

Scott currently serves as President of the Benton MPC Board of Adjustments and is also on the board of the Red River Association of Health Underwriters.

He is married to Angel, and has twin children Grant and Genevieve. He coaches his son's Bossier Little League baseball team during the week and on most weekends travels with his daughter to her barrel racing events.

AFGSC welcomes new vice commander

Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV assumes the position of Vice Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, LA, on 7 July. The command organizes, trains, equips, and maintains combat-ready forces that provide strategic deterrence, global strike, and combat support to USSTRATCOM and other geographic combatant commands. The command is comprised of more than 33,700 professionals operating at two Numbered Air Forces and eleven active-duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve wings. Weapons systems assigned to the command include Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), B-1, B-2, and B-52 bombers, UH-1N helicopters, the E-4B National Airborne Operations Center aircraft (NAOC), and the Nuclear Command, Control and Communications (NC3) systems.

General Tibbets received his commission through the Air Force Academy in 1989. Following graduation, he served in a variety of operational assignments as a B-1 pilot and subse-

quently as a B-2 pilot. The general has commanded at the squadron and wing levels, and flown in combat missions in support of operations in Southwest Asia, the Balkans and Afghanistan. His staff assignments include executive assistant to the Commander, Eighth Air Force, Chief of the Nuclear Policy Branch at NATO Headquarters. Prior to commanding the 509 BW, he was Deputy Director for Nuclear Operations, U.S. Strategic Command.



His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Combat Readiness Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

General Tibbets is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate Barksdale
Picnic

13 October 2017
(See p. 3)

Celebrate Barksdale Golf
Tournament

13 November 2017
Eastridge Country Club

MAC Christmas Social

18 December 2017
6 p.m.
Eldorado Resort & Casino

Reserve Wing under new command

Colonel Rob VanHoy assumes command of the 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, LA, on Saturday, July 8. The 307th is Air Force Reserve Command's sole bomb wing, operating both the B-52H Stratofortress and B-1B Lancer. Tasked alongside Active Associate partners, the unit equipped wing is responsible to execute all USAF B-52H formal training. Additionally, through Classic Associations, the 307th provides combat-ready B-52H / B-1B aircrew, maintenance personnel and combat support to execute nuclear/conventional global operational taskings. As commander, Colonel VanHoy will be responsible for more than 1,900 Citizen-Airmen, civilian personnel and associated resources.



Colonel VanHoy is a native of Shreveport, La., graduating from Southwood High School. He received his commission from the Reserve Officers Training Corps upon graduation from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in May 1990. After completing 12 years in the Regular Air Force, he transitioned to the Air Force Reserve as a Traditional Reservist in 2002. In 2010 he became an Air Reserve Technician and since 2016 he has served in the Active Guard/Reserve.

Colonel VanHoy has served in a variety of assignments as a Logistics Officer, Officer in Charge, a C-130H pilot, instruc-

tor pilot and aircraft commander; a B-52 aircraft commander, instructor pilot and evaluator pilot; a Director of Scheduling and Director of Operations; Squadron Commander, and most recent, Reserve Advisor to the Eighth Air Force Commander.

His major awards and decorations include Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with nine oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service, five devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 'M' device, Air Force Training Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,700 hours in the B-52, C-130, T-38, & T-37. Colonel VanHoy's combat deployment operations include: Joint Endeavor, Joint Forge, Joint Guardian, Southern Watch, and Enduring Freedom.

MAC awards '17 scholarships



(Air Force Photo by A1C Sydney Bennett, 2 BW/PA)

This year's scholarship recipients are A1C Gillian B. Bagapuro 2 MXS, TSgt Zachariah E. Bingham 2 CES, SSgt Mark A. Brown 2 MDSS, MSgt Jodi S. Carreiro 2 BW, SrA Robert A. Cassidy 2 MDSS, SrA Isaac M. Cuevas 2 AMXS, TSgt Shane M. Derrick 2 CES, SSgt John A. Gender 2 MXS, SrA Daniel Hagan 2 MXS, SSgt Dakota L. Henriott 2 MDSS, TSgt Walter A. Hoffman 2 MXS, SrA Stephen E. Jarrett 2 AMXS, SrA Rebecca L. Johnson 2 AMDS, SrA Steven J. Kalz 2 MUNS, SSgt Jon D. Moore 2 LRS, MSgt Michael R. Ory 2 CES, MSgt Amber D. Perry 307 BW, SSgt Samuel J. Ritzmann 2 MXS, SSgt Heinrich Smit 2 CONS, and TSgt Curtis G. Sutton 2 LRS. Scholarships were presented at the MAC Update Luncheon on 20 June at the Barksdale Club.

Upcoming Barksdale Program Change

MAC Members,

This year we are revitalizing the Barksdale Honorary Commander Program in much the same way the Chief of Staff of the Air Force is working to revitalize Air Force squadrons. Building upon the former Eagles program, Colonel Neuman's intent is to foster more engagement and interaction between base personnel and the community while ensuring compliance with Department of Defense and Air Force Instructions. Listed below are some key changes of the new Honorary Commander Program and Base Pass Policy:

Appointment of honorary commanders: Installation commander will be the final approval authority.

Unit Commander Responsibilities: There is a renewed emphasis for Barksdale commanders to engage with their honorary commander on a regular basis.

Engagement Schedules: New standardized efforts to set

clear expectations for the wing, group, squadron, and community leaders.

Base Passes: All personnel who currently have a base pass will be able to keep it until the expiration date. MAC members who are not honorary commanders, but require frequent base access will still be able to request access. Other MAC members will still be able to attend meetings and events on base without designated passes.

The support we receive from the MAC is incredibly invaluable to our Airmen. We want to do everything we can to facilitate MAC and community engagement. Please understand there may be occasional changes in order to comply with our regulations so we can continue this engagement. We hope to continue our amazing relationship as we renew this program.

For any questions regarding this program, please contact our Public Affairs office at 2bw.pa@us.af.mil or (318) 456-1015.

BAFB Airshow deemed great success

If you missed the 2017 Defenders of Liberty Airshow, you missed a great time! Once again the MAC was able to provide financial and technical support to help make this one of the best shows in the nation. The show actually started before most people even arrived. Friday afternoon saw the beginning of the weekend activities when the USN Blue Angels hosted their special needs show. The Blues invite special needs individuals to attend a "private" show during their practice on Friday and give those participants personal attention before and after the practice. Cathy McHugh, Chairman of the President's Club, worked with Holy Angels and other groups to provide a very special experience for individuals who would never be able to attend the crowded weekend shows.

Our sponsors, active duty military and their dependents enjoyed the Friday night twilight show to get a great preview of what was to come during the weekend and a special night show from the Shockwave Jet Truck. The weekend was blessed with great weather and huge crowds. So many people



attended on Saturday that the gates were closed early because the base had reached its maximum capacity. Bombers ruled the show with flights of WWII bombers flying alongside current bombers. Several formations were flown to include a B-52, B-29 and B-17 formation. Red Bull racing pilots Kevin Coleman and Michael Goullian flew great aerobatic shows as well as World Freestyle Aerobatic Champion Rob Holland. A Russian Mig, WWII German ME-262 and a US P-51 also provided shows on both days.

The MAC is able to provide support to the show because of our many generous Corporate and President's Club sponsors. We would like to thank David Dethloff, Vice President of the Air Show, Bill McHugh, Executive Director of the Air Show and Cathy McHugh, the Presidents Club Chairman, for all their hard work ensuring another successful Air Show.

We would also like to thank the Airmen of Barksdale for the tremendous amount of work they do to make this show a success.

Roots for Boots (Adopt an Airmen Program)

The Military Affairs Council and Barksdale Air Force Base introduced the Roots for Boots (Adopt an Airmen Program) in December 2016. To date, 15 local families has been matched up with 30 Airmen. This program is designed to provide Airmen with an avenue to form friendships and gather support beyond the formal work environment. If you remember leaving behind the comfort and security of your parents' home, you will understand the needs of young men and women in this program. Rigorous military standards can tax even the best of spirits, producing feelings of great stress to make the grade in some Airmen, and in others, moments of loneliness, homesickness and doubt. The official relationship lasts for the duration of time that the Airman is assigned to Barksdale AFB, or when one of the two parties decides to terminate the relationship.

The goal of the program is to have individuals from the community serve as the Airman's mentor, friend, and advisor, providing a caring environment to relax away from the pressures of work and future deployments. Participants are also in the position to serve as a positive adult role model helping Airmen understand their role as a career Air Force Airman and reinforcing positive social values. We will attempt to match host families with Airmen who share the same basic characteristics. Airmen can request "by name" host families.

The Roots for Boots Program is run by the Military Affairs Council (MAC) of Shreveport-Bossier but families are not required to be MAC members to participate. The MAC is a 501 c3 non-profit with a history of service and ties to Barksdale AFB.

If you have the desire and commitment to make a difference in a young Airman's life, this is the program for you! If you are interested in being involved or have questions, please contact Sammy Halphen at Samuelhalphen@gmail.com or 318-465-5608.

Volunteers needed for 2017 Celebrate Barksdale Picnic

Please join your fellow MAC members and volunteer to work at "Celebrate Barksdale" on Friday, October 13. This is our annual way of extending a great big THANK YOU to all the men, women and their family members serving Barksdale. We need your help with cooking and serving hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings to our guests. In addition to showing our appreciation to Barksdale Team Members and their families, working at "Celebrate Barksdale" is a terrific way to meet other MAC members, interact with Base personnel and enjoy a Friday outside in October weather.

The four major areas of work are listed below along with the responsible Committee Chair. If you can work and are interested in serving in a particular area, please contact the committee chair directly; otherwise contact Bert Schmale, Vice President Celebrate Barksdale or Kathi Smith, Executive Director, and we will work you into a slot. Please let us know your availability when signing up to work.

Daryl Pruitt dpruitt@citizensnb.com Cell 318 469-0758
Cooking Committee - Responsible for cooking and delivering food to serving tent.

Dr. Christopher Cosse ccosse@mac.com Cell 318 820-3562
Tent Committee - Responsible for food serving process and routine cleaning of dining tables.

Dave Lay davidjljay@yahoo.com Cell 318 426-1221
Refreshments Committee - Responsible for icing and distributing soft drinks/water; oversight on Beer Trailer.

Kathi Smith maceagle@shreve.net Cell 318 268-0773
Logistics Committee - Responsible for ordering supplies, coordinating electrical needs, coordinating stage/children's activities and organizing trash details.

Bert Schmale bert.schmale@bxs.com Cell 318 603-6026
Vice President Celebrate Barksdale - Coordinates all aspects of event.