



# COMBAT AIRLIFTER

VOLUME 65 • NUMBER 34 • FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 2017



# 'THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE'

## OPERATION MARKET GARDEN 2017

PAGES 8-9

A C-130J from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., is flown over the Houtdorperveld Drop Zone as paratroopers conduct a static line jump Sept. 15, 2017, during exercise Falcon Leap. Aircrew members from the 62nd Airlift Squadron worked alongside eight different nations to honor and remember the sacrifices made in 1944 during Operation Market Garden.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CODIE COLLINS



### 70TH AIR FORCE ANNIVERSARY BALL

Members of Team Little Rock gathered at the Statehouse Convention Center to celebrate Little Rock Air Force Base's 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, Sept. 16, 2017, Little Rock, Ark. Since Sept. 18, 1947, the U.S. Air Force has lead the way in Air, Space and Cyberspace.

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### CONTINUING THE FIGHT

Members of the 61st Airlift Squadron deploy as members of the 41st Airlift Squadron return.

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### ONE FAMILY'S SERVICE

Since the Air Force's conception, Airmen have served in every major conflict and war requiring air support. This history is shared by one family in particular.

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# Op-Ed: 'Family First' approach key to addressing pilot shortage

By Gen. Carlton Everhart II

*Air Mobility Command commander*

The Air Force faces an ongoing pilot shortage. This is not the first time the Air Force has been in this position, and as long as there is a market for highly-trained, professional, disciplined Airmen it will not be the last.

Air Mobility Command pilots are particularly attractive candidates for employment. Our Airmen fly the same types of aircraft as the major national and regional airlines, making for an easy transition if they elect to leave the service. With 1,600 mobility pilots eligible to separate from the service over the next four years, we need to address this issue and maintain the right number of Airmen in our Air Force cockpits.

As we pursue solutions and seek improvements, AMC is planning to quickly put into place initiatives that demonstrate short-term progress. I'm also committed to improving our Airmen's quality of life in ways not entirely within the Air Force's or Air Mobility Command's span of control.

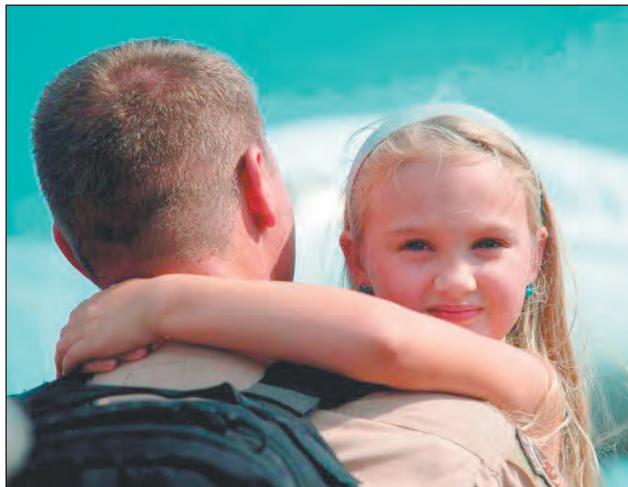
I believe we've done a good job of getting feedback from within on this matter. More than 700 Air Mobility Command Airmen offered suggestions for improvement. An area that we have not fully accounted for is the family perspective. One thing is increasingly clear: if Airmen stay or elect to depart the service, it is usually a family decision.

Regularly moving to different duty stations creates family disruption.

When our children change schools like they change clothes, it can add stress. Moving from a school district that is meeting a family's needs to one that does not creates discontent and sometimes drives military families to either home school, pay for private school, or settle for what is available. In any case, this impacts the quality of home life and becomes a burden of service.

Service before self is one of the Air Force's Core Values -- a concept all Airmen hold dear and live by. However, that should not mean sacrificing quality of education for our children. In some instances, Airmen elect to live 50 or more minutes from an installation to ensure education and stability are not compromised.

Part of enhancing quality of life for our Airmen is ensuring our military children have access to



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY RASHEEN DOUGLAS

A girl smiles as she hugs her father during the return of the 17th Airlift Squadron on Sept. 4, 2013, at Joint Base Charleston Air Base, S.C.

quality education. I think we can do better. I've already communicated with elected officials and local communities about the need for further partnering to enhance education in areas surrounding military installations.

There is genuine concern and interest in making improvement. I expect our wing and installation commanders to continue these efforts locally to advocate for their Airmen and families.

Additionally, we need to ensure quality employment options for spouses, working to ensure professional licenses transfer between states. Starting over is difficult enough, but being asked to put your career on hold by marrying into the Air Force is not acceptable. If we don't fix this, more talented Airmen and families will vote with their feet.

This is what we are also doing immediately within Air Mobility Command. While not all changes will be immediate, we're moving out on the following:

We are looking to identify unnecessary deployments and then eliminate them. We are working with U.S. Transportation Command, AMC's combatant command, to evaluate all AMC deployments to ensure Airmen are being used effectively and only when necessary.

We will more accurately measure time away from family and temporary duty/deployment tempos. We know Airmen are working much harder than the

Department of Defense or Air Force metrics are taking into account. We're working across the Total Force -- Active Duty, Guard, and Reserves -- to develop a model to more accurately capture this data. We are also looking at ways to make life more stable for Airmen and families by making assignments longer and providing enhanced ability to meet family needs where the assignment system allows.

We want to add more mobility Airmen in the assignment management system. Adding more mobility Airmen at the Air Force Personnel Center will improve system-wide insight into AMC missions and demands. Having more mobility Airmen in AFPC will help ensure personal circumstances are better understood. This could also help to introduce enhanced flexibility into the assignment system.

We are pursuing an Aviator Track. I'm advocating for an aviator track, where the overwhelming majority of time spent is flying. This would impact a small number of AMC pilots initially. There are still a few things we need to coordinate with Headquarters Air Force on this front, but this is something that we are actively pursuing.

We are reducing additional duties to best focus on the core mission. I am in the process of fully manning the AMC squadron command support sections to enable Airmen to focus on their core missions. I've communicated to wing commanders that AMC will only enforce additional duties that are absolutely required and necessary.

The mobility machine is always churning hard and I have a dedicated professional team working across functions to ensure we move out and get after what is required to demonstrate to our Airmen that they are valued and their inputs have been heard.

We are working closely with community partners to ensure our families have the resources and opportunities required to succeed where the Air Force needs them. Those I've met with have expressed genuine concern and interest in helping us get to where we need to be.

We will continue to work to earn and maintain the trust of our Airmen and create enhanced quality of service and life for our service members and their families.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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Content provided by 19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
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# COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK

**NAME AND RANK**

Senior Airman Tyeisha Lewis

**UNIT**

19th Logistics Readiness Squadron

**DUTY TITLE**

Vehicle Fleet Management and Analysis

Journeyman

**HOMETOWN**

Augusta, Georgia

**TIME IN SERVICE**

3 Years and 6 Months

**TIME AT LITTLE ROCK**

3 Years

Goals

Graduate with BA in Child Psychology

**HOBBIES**

Reading poetry, hiking, and helping special needs children

**AIR FORCE CORE VALUE PORTRAYED**

Service Before Self

**HOW DOES THE INDIVIDUAL PORTRAY THE CORE VALUE?**

Lewis acquired a bus from the Cabot transportation department after hours to support the Hurricane Irma evacuated units with local transportation. Her actions saved the United States Air Force \$1,500 in lease costs.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

■ The 39th Team Little Rock Retiree Appreciation Day event is Sept. 23 in the Walters Community Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, see page 11 or call the Little Rock AFB Retiree Activities Office at (501) 987-6095.

## MSG CORNER

■ The front entrance of building 1250 will not be accessible due to construction Sept. 9-25. Signs for alternate access behind the building will be posted outside Building 1250.

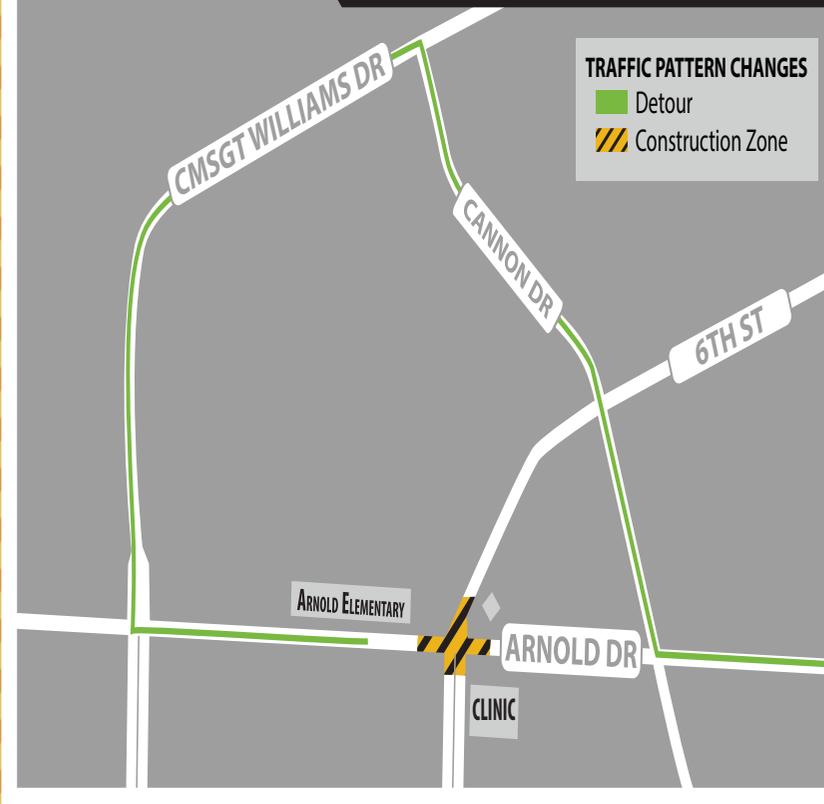
■ CMSgt Williams Drive is closed between Avenue A East and Avenue A West until late October. Avenue A East is still accessible from the east and Avenue A West from the west. The intersection of Thomas Avenue and CMSgt Williams Drive is closed.

■ Arnold Drive/6th Street intersection closed Sept. 4 and will remain closed for approximately four weeks for repairs. Through traffic traveling west on Arnold Drive will detour at Cannon Drive to CMSgt Williams Drive. Customers traveling west will still be able to access the Clinic and First Arkansas Bank and Trust parking lots.

■ Residents can recycle household chemicals, cleaning agents, fertilizer and electronics at the Jacksonville Recycling Facility at 1300 Marshall Road. Electronics and chemicals are accepted 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. *Note: Paint is not accepted. It should be solidified with cat litter, sawdust, sand, etc. and placed in household trash containers with the lid off. For more information, call 501-982-6071.*

## UPCOMING TRAFFIC CHANGES: HOW YOUR COMMUTE MAY BE AFFECTED

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- ▶ You will still be able to access the clinic parking lot from Arnold Dr.
- ▶ Please follow the detour from Arnold Dr. to Cannon Dr. to CMSGT Williams Dr. back to Arnold Dr. to reach Arnold Elementary from the main gate.
- ▶ Construction start date: September 5, 2017
- ▶ Estimated completion date: Early October



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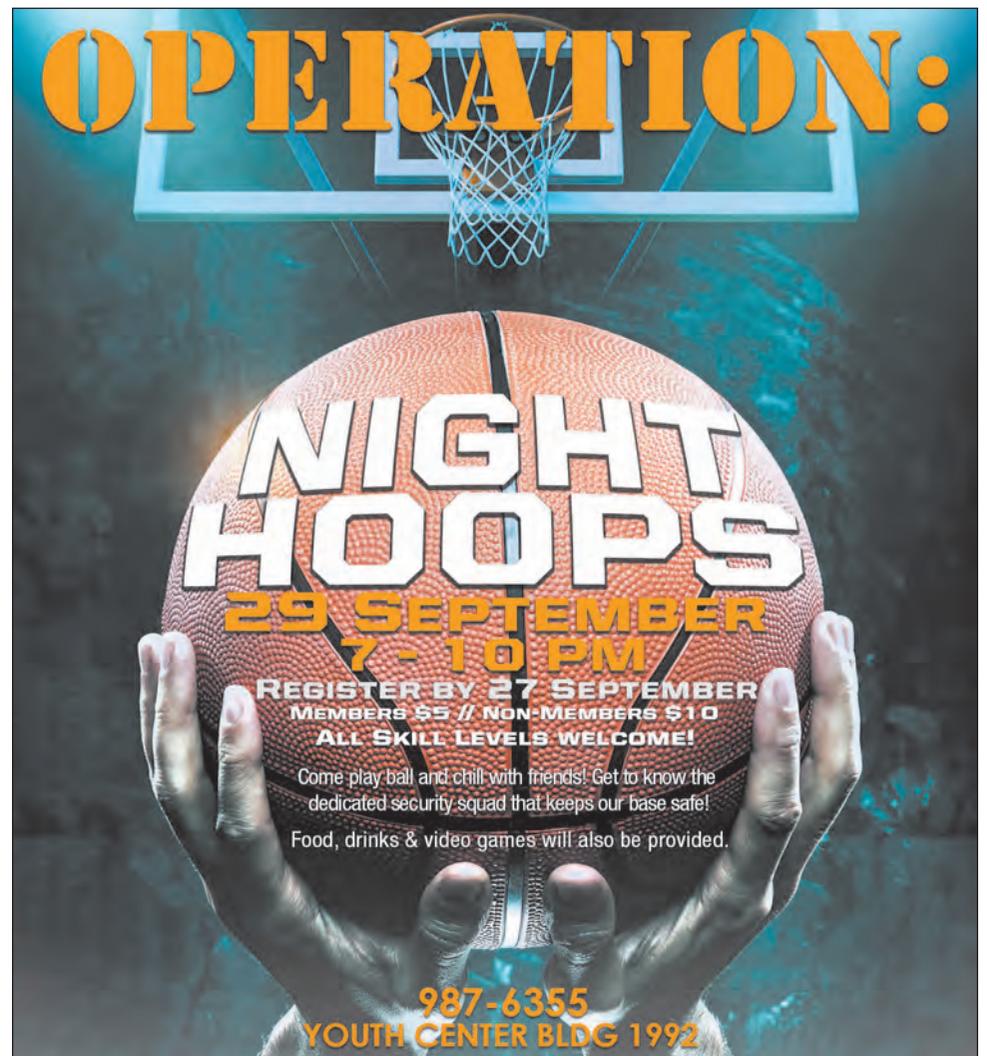
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# 70th Air Force Anniversary Ball

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT. JEREMY MCGUFFIN,  
19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Airmen wear different versions of the U.S. Air Force uniform during Little Rock Air Force Base's 70th Air Force Ball Sept. 16, 2017, at the Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Ark. The U.S. Air Force celebrated 70 years of breaking barriers in Air, Space and Cyber Space.



Col. Gerald Donohue, 19th Airlift Wing commander, gives his remarks at Little Rock Air Force Base's 70th Air Force Birthday Ball, Sept. 16, 2017, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Ark. Every year, the Air Force celebrates its birthday with a formal military ball and festivities. This year's theme was 'Breaking Barriers.'



Members of Team Little Rock gathered at the Statehouse Convention Center to celebrate Little Rock Air Force Base's 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, Sept. 16, 2017, Little Rock, Ark. Since Sept. 18, 1947, the U.S. Air Force has lead the way in Air, Space and Cyberspace.

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# CONTINUING THE FIGHT

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY AIRMAN RHETT ISBELL, 19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## 61ST AIRLIFT SQUADRON DEPLOYS



Airman 1st Class Omar Campos, 19th Airlift Maintenance Squadron crew chief, readies himself to marshal a C-130J taking members of Team Little Rock on the first leg of their trip to a deployment, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



(Above) Tech. Sgt. Nicole Palko, 61st Airlift Squadron independent duty medical technician, boards a C-130J for deployment, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Palko will be providing medical support in the field for Team Little Rock members and others. (Left) 1st Lt. David Carruth, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot, puts his wedding ring onto his dog tag chain, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.



Capt. John Rebolledo, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot, leaves for deployment to Southeast Asia at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Rebolledo will be in charge of conducting mission support and transporting essential supplies and personnel upon his arrival.

## 41ST AIRLIFT SQUADRON RETURNS



A member of the 41st Airlift Squadron high-fives base leadership as he returns from deployment Sept. 15, 2017, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Four C-130Js returned Little Rock Airmen to their families.



(Above) Zoey Valentine, age 6, waits in front of the 41st Airlift Squadron for her father, Tech. Sgt. Travis Valentine, as he returns from a deployment Sept. 15, 2017, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Little Rock Airmen are deployed in shifts to lessen the burden on the individuals and families.



(Left) Capt. Michael Gohier, 41st Airlift Squadron pilot, hugs his daughter Fiona, age 4, after returning from deployment Sept. 15, 2017, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Gohier spent his deployment helping support overseas contingency operations.



Members of the 41st Airlift Squadron unload a C-130J upon returning from deployment Sept. 15, 2017, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Little Rock Airmen returned after supporting Operation Freedom Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support.

# 70 years of air power: One family's service

By Airman 1st Class Grace Nichols  
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The need for unified airpower forged the foundation for the Air Force during World War II. Since its conception, Airmen have served in every major conflict and war requiring air support.

This history is shared by one family in particular.

## FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE

The demands of World War II prompted many people to take up arms. Retired Master Sgt. Fred Thomas joined their ranks, serving as a gunner in the Army Air Corps, later transitioning into the Air Force as aircrew.

His son, retired Chief Master Sgt. Gary Thomas, followed in his footsteps and became a flight simulator instructor and served in the Air Force Senior Enlisted Council. He pioneered many changes, including improving housing for unaccompanied Airmen.

The call to serve, as well as receiving orders to live in Iceland, led Gary to his wife, Rebecca, who served in the Air Force as a staff sergeant in avionics.

"Our family has been on the greatest team in the world since 1947," Gary said. "Growing up, I knew without a shadow of a doubt I would join the Air Force."

## TRADITION OF HONOR

This Air Force family tree grew when they gave birth to their son, Earl.

"Being in the Air Force was something my father was proud of, and I knew I wanted to be part of it early on," said Maj. Earl Thomas, 19th Medical Group Public Health flight commander.

Earl married and had two children, Karie and Matthew.

No one would have blamed the Thomas' for ending their military journey; they had collectively served 81 years in the Air Force. For a while, it looked like the last member serving would be Earl; then his daughter had a change of heart.

"I wanted to stay in one place and settle down," said Senior Airman Karie Thomas, 436th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health technician at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. "I was working as a waitress and paying for



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GRACE NICHOLS

From left, retired Chief Master Sgt. Gary Thomas, Senior Airman Karie Thomas, 436th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health technician at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and Maj. Earl Thomas, 19th Medical Group Public Health flight commander, celebrate the 70th Air Force anniversary at the Air Force Ball, Sept. 16, 2017. The three honored their Air Force heritage and their relative, retired Master Sgt. Fred Thomas.

college. I literally woke up one day and said, 'I want more for my life.' So I decided the Air Force was the way to go."

## LEGACY OF VALOR

An assignment to Dover AFB, Delaware, challenged

Karie to spread her own wings.

"It's humbling to be able to serve in the same branch as my family," Karie said. "Before I was observing from the outside, but now I'm in the Air Force family and sharing the experience. It's an amazing tradition that we're part of."

See Years, Page 11

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# OPERATION MARKET GARDEN REMEMBERED 73 YEARS LATER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CODIE COLLINS, 19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS





Parachute canopies fill the sky as paratroopers from eight countries land at the Houtdorperveld Drop Zone during Falcon Leap Sept. 15, 2017, Ermelo, Netherlands. More photos from this memorial event can be found on the official Little Rock Air Force Base website.



A World War II and Operation Market Garden veteran stands for a moment of silence to remember those who sacrificed their lives 73 years ago on Sept. 16, 2017, at Ede, Netherlands. This event marks the 73rd anniversary of Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne operation in history.

## A jump to remember



Chief Master Sgt. Lewis Holston, 314th Operations Group superintendent, surveys the drop zone prior to paratroopers exiting Sept. 14, 2017, near Ede, Netherlands. Days prior to executing personnel drops during the Operation Market Garden event, aircrews conducted personnel drops during exercise Falcon Leap.

Freedom isn't free; the price isn't paid by one country alone.

Allied troops wearing different uniforms, originating from different countries were transported on a C-47. Sitting shoulder to shoulder, they prepared to jump from side doors of the aircraft into the unknown. Confident their mission would be a success, they had no idea the majority of paratroopers were about to fall to their deaths.

Allied troops rallied Sept. 18th, 1944, to execute Operation Market Garden. Comprised of approximately 41,700 American, British and Polish service members, it was the largest airborne operations of World War II.

The plan was to secure the bridges over the rivers Maas, Waal and Rhine in the Netherlands from the Axis powers. This would enable the Allies to outmaneuver the Axis' defenses on the Siegfried line, ensuring a swift advance toward Berlin, Germany.

Operation Market Garden was a two-part airborne operation in which paratroopers were inserted into enemy terrain to seize an object of value, later ground troops would move in and secure the objective.

Allied commanders constructed the operation hopeful it would end World War II by December 1944, however, Axis forces were much stronger than anticipated.

What was supposed to be the turning point of the war, became a failed operation creating approximately 17,000 Allied casualties.

To honor those service members who fought for freedom, the Royal Netherlands Army hosted a memorial parachute jump Sept. 16th, 2017, on the Ginkelse Heid

**See Remember, Page 10**

# Remember

Continued from Page 9

Drop Zone, Netherlands, near the city of Ede.

Aircraft and service members from the United States, the Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, France and Germany partook in the memorial jump.

One aircraft flying in the memorial jump belonged to the 314th Airlift Wing from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark, whose lineage dates back to World War II. Their predecessor, the 314th Troop Carrier Group, took part in both the Normandy Invasion and Operation Market Garden.

“We did this because it is our history,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Benjamin Spain, 314th Operations Group C-130J evaluator pilot. “The 314th and 62nd were units participating during Market Garden in 1944. It’s important for us to come back and remember what the guys in our unit did back then.”

While Little Rock AFB aircrew flew the C-130J over

the historical drop zone, paratroopers from the six countries sat in the belly of the aircraft and prepared to conduct the same jump that their predecessors did in 1944.

“Although we all come from different nations with our own languages, we all speak the same tongue when it comes to being a paratrooper,” said the Netherlands Royal Air Force Brigadier H.G.J.A. Smits, 11 Air Assault Brigade Commander. “The memorial jump brings together paratroopers from various nations to share knowledge and work on their interoperability.”

United by the powerful ideal of securing freedom for all, Operation Market Garden erased cultural barriers between those who participated in the operation during World War II.

“I saw men who were hungry, exhausted and hopelessly outnumbered. Men by whom all the rules of war could gladly have surrendered and had it all over with, men who were shelled until they could’ve been hopeless psychopaths and through it all they laughed, they sang and they died. They kept fighting because they knew they were told that this battle would shorten the war, for

others,” an account from an U.S. service member stated.

The memorial jump was followed by a wreath laying ceremony, where multiple wreaths were laid in honor of the bravery of the men who sacrificed their lives.

“Only in unity can we live in freedom,” said the mayor of Ede, Netherlands. “The memorial jump reminds us freedom cannot be taken for granted. Let us follow the example of every veteran and every soldier of then and now. Let us remember them, honor them and respect them so that we never forget.”



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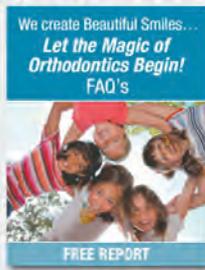
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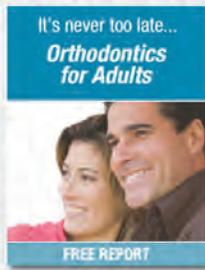
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# Years

Continued from Page 7

Karie created her own experiences by making Senior Airmen Below-the-Zone and receiving the Air Force Sergeants Association Airman of the Year Award.

"I joined to be a part of something bigger than myself," Karie said. "Now all of us get to celebrate this tradition together by attending the 70th Air Force Anniversary Ball."

Gary, Earl and Karie gathered together in uniform during the event to celebrate their history for the first time since Karie's Basic Military Training graduation.

"This (is) the first time (we're) together and fully able to enjoy it and take it all in," Earl said. "My family heritage and the Air Force heritage is one and the same. I haven't known anything other than my Air Force family."

# Retiree Appreciation Day is Sept. 23

Little Rock Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office will host the 39th annual Team Little Rock Retiree Appreciation Day event honoring Arkansas' military retirees in the Walters Community Center Sept. 23, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will boast an array of informational booths open to all Team Little Rock in support of Arkansas's retiree community.

Retirees will have the opportunity to learn about travel, health care, banking options, becoming and remaining healthy and educational opportunities manned by community business leaders, health professionals, base personnel



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KEVIN SOMMER GIRON

Attendees shared stories Retiree Appreciation Day Fair Oct. 21, 2016, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Little Rock AFB supports approximately 53,000 retirees.

and numerous military and retiree organizations members. At each booth, retirees were provided one-on-one briefings about their benefits and how they could take advantage of numerous other available services.

The Retiree Activi-

ties Office, located in the Consolidated Support Facility, building 1255, offers services to more than 57,000 military retirees residing in Arkansas. For more information, call the Little Rock AFB Retiree Activities Office at (501) 987-6095.



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# 'Got your 6': Watching your wingman's back

By Airman Rhett Isbell

19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

September is Suicide Prevention Month and was established to help raise awareness of those at risk of suicide and how to help them.

Creating an open discussion of mental health issues and how to remove the stigma of receiving help because of those issues is the goal of SPM.

"I've seen a lot of instances where people took their lives and it's a permanent solution to a temporary problem," said Elizabeth Bishop, 19th Airlift Wing violence prevention manager. "If someone is suicidal, they often feel overwhelmed by the pain of problems affecting them in the moment. The number one piece of advice I can give for those individuals is that they need to reach out for help."

Recently, the topic of suicide has been transitioning from a mental health discussion to a public health point of interest. This stems from the realization that individuals at-risk for



suicide may be able to be identified and more immediately helped in the beginning by members of the public.

Some suicide warning signs include talking about death or suicide, withdrawing from friends and family, abusing drugs or alcohol, acting recklessly or giving away prized possessions.

"Getting care is a key factor in getting better," said Capt. Barbara McLeod, 19th Medical Operations Squadron clinical psychologist. "The concerns that can make people vulnera-

ble to suicide are treatable and that very treatment can help people rediscover the strength, resilience and hope that might feel out of sight during a crisis. Whatever resource a person may access – Primary care manager, mental health provider, a chaplain, a spouse or a friend – the most important part is making sure you take the first step and ask for help. It's here for you."

Helping Team Little Rock can be accomplished by service members coming together and being there for each other in their times of need. Many people can become vulnerable to depression or other symptoms that can cause suicidal tendencies. It's important to know what these symptoms are, to identify them and help someone in need.

"Most of the time the people who prevent suicide are young Airmen who see the signs in their friends," McLeod said. "Giving everyone the knowledge and ability to react to that possibility is what's most important."

For the National Suicide Prevention Crisis Line, call 1 (800) 273-8255

For the Mental Health Clinic, call (501) 987-7338.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
 North Little Rock, AR 72116  
 Church Office: 835-2201

Contemporary Worship.....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
 Sanctuary Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Chapel Service.....6:30 p.m.  
 Children/Youth.....6:30 p.m.  
<http://NLRFUMC.org>

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 802 South Claremont Ave.  
 NLR, AR 72116  
 501-835-0646

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 WED. – 6:30 P.M.  
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**NLR Reading Room**  
 3722 JFK Blvd, NLR, AR 72116  
 501-791-0664 for information.  
 (M-F, 10 to 2; Sat., 10-1, except Holidays)

**1st Pentecostal Church**  
 East I-40, NLR

Sun. 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Tues. 7:30 p.m.  
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 Morning Worship Service .... 11 am  
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