



Wright Flyer

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Standing UTA Schedule
Command Team Comments
What's Happening this UTA
Hot Topics
Readiness Items
Promotions
Hails and Farewells

Standing UTA Schedule

<u>Saturday</u>

0600 - 1300 - PT TESTING - HOURS VARY BY SEASON,
 STARTS EACH HOUR

- 0700 0730 UNIT CC TIME (KICKOFF)
- 0700 0945 NEWCOMERS BRIEFING
- 0730 -1600 MPS OPEN
- 0730 1600 MEDICAL AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS
- 0800 1145 FM SUPPORT (VOUCHERS, DTS, RTS, E-FINANCE, ETC)
- 0900 1015 GREEN DOT TRAINING
- 9090 1015 MENTORING 101
- 1300 1430 GREEN DOT TRAINING
- 1300 1400 FUNCTIONAL MEETINGS (AFSC, UDM, UHM, UTM, ETC)
- 1300 1430 CDC TESTING
- 1400 1600 CEREMONIES, RETIREMENTS, CHANGE OF COMMAND, PROMOSTIONS
- 1430 1545 AIRMEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL / TOP 3
- 1430 1600 GI BILL/TUITION ASSISTANCE BRIEFING

<u>Sunday</u>

• 0600 - 1300 - PT TESTING - HOURS VARY BY SEASON,

- STARTS EACH HOUR
- 0700 1500 OJT TRAINING
- 0730 0900 MPS OPEN
 *NOTE: AN MPS CUSTOMER SERVICE REP WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 0900 1400
 ONLY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CAC ISSUES
- 0800 0930 CDC TESTING
- 1300 1430 CDC TESTING
- 1400 1500 MPS OPEN
- 1530 1600 UNIT CC (WRAP-UP)

The schedule provided is a standard UTA schedule. The events listed are routine and do not represent each individual's UTA schedule.

Squadron Innovation Funds

Purpose

To invest in the most innovative ideas Airmen bring forward to increase both readiness & lethality in our mission sets

Solution

Empower Sqd/CCs & their Airmen to creatively solve problems by providing resources and authority to be innovative

Way Ahead

Ask Airmen with ideas to provide concepts/ideas NLT COB Feb UTA

* Submit up through chain of command to Group staff.



^{**}Contact your supervisor for more detailed information.

Command Team



Fellow 916th Airmen,

Thank you for everything you do for our great wing. I am so proud to serve alongside the best Airmen in 4th Air Force. You were recognized in 2017 with the Raincross award, in 2018 with the Sherrard Award, best Mobility Air Force unit in AFRC, and our Maintenance Group received the 2018 Safety Award from AFRC. Those and many other accolades you all have received in the past year are a testament to how great you are. As we look forward to our final deployments as a KC-135 wing and conversion to the KC-46, I challenge each of you to continue with your level of excellence as we become the premier KC-46 wing in AFRC. We will be first to own and operate the United States Air Force's newest tanker and it's been said that this is an aircraft that "also" does air-refueling. The KC-46 brings much more capability to our warfighter with more offload captivity, more cargo space, better aeromedical evacuation functions, new defensive systems, and new communication capabilities that will enhance our situational awareness as well as shape the battlefield in our favor. I just released our wing strategic priorities: Airmen First, Mission Ready Always, and Innovate and Modernize. Take a look at these priorities and use them to guide your decision making process while serving in the wing. Our job is to provide air refueling. Everyone in our wing contributes to that effect. We are a force multiplier and enable our military to be the greatest of all time. Ultimately we provide military options to ensure our civilian leaders negotiate from a position of strength. Again, I am so proud to serve alongside you and look forward to seeing you soon. We deliver the warriors, and fuel the fight - follow us.



Mark Richey

Happy New Year 916th ARW! I hope this message finds you on the front end of what promises to be a great 2019! As I reflect over 2018, I want to personally thank you for your service and sacrifice. You chose to invest your free time to provide for the safety and security that my family and I enjoy. As I look forward to 2019, I am so FIRED UP to see the awesome things you will accomplish.

My resolution for our wing is that we effectively battle to help you balance the three legs of the stool for the Citizen Airman: Family/ Personal Life, Civilian Career, and Military Service. Please communicate with your section, flight, squadron, group and wing leadership how the balance of the three legs is holding up so that we can help you over time ensure the right combination. You are the most vital piece to executing the National Defense Strategy. Without the people to execute and support the mission of bringing the fight to our adversaries, it just doesn't get done. And no amount of weaponry will work without the skills, commitment, and critical thought that you bring to the fight. Keep up the great work 916th!



The great NFL Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi once said, "Individual commitment to a group effort-that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

As you reflect on your personal and professional accomplishments of the past year. and contemplate those areas you may want to refine; I ask you to prioritize re-affirming your "Individual commitment" to the 916th Team. Without your individual commitment, we cannot accomplish our mission in 2019. As we embark on a new year of modernization, your commitment to innovation and dedication to caring for your 916th teammates will ensure our wing and the Air Force continues to meet national security objectives. Never forget that your individual commitment no matter how seemingly miniscule is what makes the 916th a force on the battlefield. I am humbled to serve with you, and I look forward to the great milestones we will achieve in 2019.

All is Fair in Love



Capt. Meagan Bowman, an instructor pilot with the 911th Air Refueling Squadron and Capt. Harwood Bowman, a fighter pilot with the 4th Fighter Wing are a Join Spouse couple at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jeramy Moore)

By SSgt Jeramy Moore, 916th Air Refueling Wing / Published October 01, 2018

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE --What are the odds? That's what Capt. Meagan Bowman, an instructor pilot with the 911th Air Refueling Squadron asked herself from the flight deck of a KC-135R Stratotanker as she refueled an F-15E Strike Eagle piloted by her husband, Capt. Harwood Bowman, a fighter pilot with the 4th Fighter Wing, over the dark desert mountains.

What are the chances that she would be in the Air Force with her husband she thought, better yet perform an aerial refueling sortie together in a combat zone? "It was just one of those bright nights, it was supposed to be pitch black but, everything was completely lit up by the moonlight," Meagan recollected. "It was so peaceful."

Bowman and her husband are among the less than 10 percent of military members in "join spouse" assignments, a program that allows legally married active-duty military couples the opportunity to be

and War

stationed together at the same installation.

"I'm really happy to be here with him, said Meagan," Refueling him midair and completing sorties for the Air Force is just the icing on the cake."

Earlier this year, the couple deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and ended up meeting in the most unexpected place, the airspace over a forward operating base.

"I hadn't seen her for several months and meeting her up there made that flight extra special," said Harwood, "It is an experience that both of us will never forget."

This was not the first time the couple met in the air. Bowman has refueled her husband multiple times since they first met back in 2013.

"I met him at pilot training," Meagan laughed, "It made Laughlin Air Force Base a lot more bearable. Since then, I've had the chance to connect with him in the air many times and in some very cool places."

After pilot training, the couple moved around with the Air Force before they finally arrived at Seymour Johnson

"Seymour Johnson is one of the few installations that utilizes both tankers and fighters, and therefore it's one of the few places where we could be co-located," said Meagan, "We entertained Mildenhall Air Force Base, but in the end we found Seymour Johnson to be the perfect fit."

From a National Defense perspective the Joint Assignment of the Bowman's is a sign of modernization within the force. In the Bowman's case, the Air Force adapted to the needs of a military family by allowing them to spend more time together. This strengthens individual member and improves the overall health of the force.

"The Air Force got this one right," said Col. Craig McPike, the commander of the 916th Air Refueling Wing. "Assigning two highly skilled combat aviators together at Seymour Johnson who happen to be married enables Rapid Global Mobility and Global Power assets to forward deploy into combat environments and be successful in supporting our National Defense Strategy.

"We love the Air force, it has broadened our horizons, given us different perspectives on different cultures and different types of people," said Meagan," but most importantly it brought us together."



Group Commander Corner

We are in a challenging but exciting time here at Seymour Johnson. We are currently maintaining an aged fleet of KC-135s. Some of these airframes are over 60 years old. Many of our outstanding mechanics have been working this aircraft their entire career, and know it inside and out. However, we are beginning the initial conversion phases to transition to the new KC-46. In a lot of ways we will all be starting over and learning from scratch the specifics of the new airframe, that is why it is important to remember the basic skills of maintenance. Safety First, by the book maintenance, and training! In addition, we need your ideas to move forward and improve the group. How would you like to simplify the tool check in/out procedures? Why not have a system that utilizes RFID that can track tools? Ideas like this to make the job more efficient is what I would like to hear about, so we can move forward together.

Col. Amanda Sheets Maintenance Group Commander

Wing Recognition

Promotions

ENLISTED PROMOTIONS

| ENLISTED PROMOTIONS | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| WILLIAMS, ISAAC D. | AMN |
| QUIN, CHASE AMN | AMN |
| LEE, JALEN D. | A1C |
| MANESS, TRISTAN G. | A1C |
| GATHINGS, LACEY L. | A1C |
| HAYES, NTWAN D | A1C |
| WILLIAMS, DANNY | A1C |
| JONES, KYLE | A1C |
| SOLOMON, PHILLIP | A1C |
| LITTLEJOHN, ANEISHA B. | SRA |
| JONES, EVAN R. | SRA |
| KRUTZIG, JOSHUA D. | SRA |
| STAUFFERFRYMIER, IZABELLE | SRA |
| JUAREZ CABRERA, IVAN M. | SRA |
| LYNN, JOSHUA L. | SRA |
| YEROME, DANIEL | SRA |
| FLORENCE, TRAE VON | SRA |
| COULTER, CINDA S | SRA |
| HARRIS, ANGEL | SRA |
| WOODS, TERRELL | SRA |
| HAILEY, BERTHA | SRA |
| HARDY, WILLIAM B | SSGT |
| PULLEN, KEOSHA | SSGT |
| MASON, JERRY | SSGT |
| ABREU, ANTHONY | SSGT |
| JAMES, DAVELL | SSGT |
| GILBERT, MICHAEL | SSGT |
| BURRESS, JOSEPH D. | SSGT |
| BALDWIN, CAMERON | SSGT |
| BROWN, AARON C. | SSGT |
| DUARTE, MONICA D. | SSGT |
| COPELAND, AURELIA R | SSGT |
| LAMBERT, ZACHARY R | TSGT |
| MIXON, JOSHUA L. | TSGT |
| WILLIAMS, ISAAC D. | TSGT |
| CRUZ, RICHARD A | TSGT |
| VARGAS GUADALUPE, MICHAE | |
| SNOW, BRYAN | TSGT TSGT |
| TROTTER, QUALISHA | TSGT |
| JIRO, JENNILYN NEAL, EYAN | TSGT |
| BORGARDT, BRYAN | TSGT |
| SAXTON, JACOB | TSGT |
| NELSON, BRANDON | TSGT |
| JAMISON, BRIAN | TSGT |
| CAFFERELLO, SHANNON | MSGT |
| SIDBURY, CURTIS | MSGT |
| MERRILL, KEVIN | MSGT |
| , . | ' |

| GOFF, MICHAEL A. | SMSGT |
|---------------------|-------|
| NATIVIDAD, MARK J. | SMSGT |
| WOOFTER, STEPHEN B. | SMSGT |
| | |

OFFICER PROMOTIONS

CHEEK, STEPHEN COL HOLLAND, CHRISTOPHER COL

Hails

ENLISTED

| ENLISTED | |
|----------------------|------|
| BAKER, RYAN | AB |
| WILLIAMS, ISAAC | AB |
| WILLIAMS, ISAAC | AB |
| WILLIAMS, DANNY | AB |
| WILLIAMS, DANNY | AB |
| QUINN, CHASE | AB |
| GODETTE, CARI | AB |
| CHAMBERS, AKIRA | AMN |
| WOODS, TERRELL | A1C |
| WINSLOW, WILLIAM | A1C |
| SPENCER-BURCH JAMIRA | A1C |
| SHEA, SEAN | A1C |
| SANDERS, AYESHA | A1C |
| PRATT, PARIS | A1C |
| MOYE TE'LISA | A1C |
| MCLINDEN, MAY | A1C |
| MARSO, RYAN | A1C |
| LEIPERT, DONALD | A1C |
| LAWSON, ERIKAH | A1C |
| GOODLOE, AMONTI | A1C |
| DOEPKER, TAYLOR | A1C |
| COULTER, CINDA | A1C |
| CHINN, NICHOLAS | A1C |
| CARAWAN, CODIE | A1C |
| BRADDOCK, BRIANNA | A1C |
| BOOKER, MCKAYLA | A1C |
| AMPONSAH, ESTHER | A1C |
| ABBOTT, CHRISTOPHER | A1C |
| JUAREZ, IVAN | A1C |
| WILLIAMS, NICHOLAS | SRA |
| NURIDDIN, JAMELA | SRA |
| JAQEN, NICHOLAS | SRA |
| GILMORE, MARCUS | SRA |
| COGGINS III, CHARLES | SRA |
| BYRD, VICTORIA | SRA |
| SHATSWELL, BRIAN | SSGT |
| JORDAN, MÉREDITH | SSGT |
| JAMISON, BRIAN | SSGT |
| HUEY, CHRISTOPHER | SSGT |
| HOFFMAN, ROBERT | SSGT |
| | |

| HODGE, BRITTNEY | SSGT |
|-------------------|------|
| FRANCO, CHRISTIAN | SSGT |
| FAULKNOR, ALYSHA | SSGT |
| DANIELS, TRAYVON | SSGT |
| BUNN, EMILEE | SSGT |
| BORGARDT, BRYAN | SSGT |
| WHEELER, MICHAEL | SSGT |
| TARVER, ERICA | SSGT |
| RIDINGS, KIRK | SSGT |
| CONNORS, PAUL | SSGT |
| EWBANK, DAVID | MSGT |
| HOLTORF, STEPHEN | MSGT |
| | |

OFFICERS

| SWANSON, ALEXANDRA | CAPT |
|------------------------|------|
| LAVERDURE, MICHAEL | CAPT |
| SIME, LAURA | MAJ |
| NIST, JACOB | MAJ |
| THIPHAVONG, SOUNTHAONE | LTC |

Farewells

BURDETTE, THOMAS BEACHAM, MICHAEL JARRETT, JOSIAH HALLMARK, SAMUEL KNOTT, TREA BURKET, ANGEL GIBSON, BRIAN MARCELLE, TABETHA ALLEN, SEDRICK SALABARRIA, ROSA DOWELL, REAGAN HOLLAND, GILLIAN NELSON, JEFFERY ROGERS, GEOFFREY RODRIGUEZ, KRYSTAL MUTIMA, ALYNE CHERRY, AYANA BECKER, STEVEN ROBLES, KARINA MCLAMB, BARRY HAGERTY, SAMANTHA BROWN, BRANDON MUNTON, MICHAEL

916th Airmen Equipped to Innovate

By Jeramy Moore, 916th Air Refueling Wing / Published October 22, 2018



Master Sgt. Duane Edwards, Master Sgt. Ritchie Post pose with the new drogue test stand they created with other members of the 916th Maintenance Group at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. on September 04 2018. (USAF Photo by Jeramy Moore)



The new drogue test stand created by Master Sgt. Duane Edwards, Master Sgt. Ritchie Post and other members of the 916th Maintenance Group at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. on September 04 2018. (Photo by Jeramy Moore)

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE -Master Sgt. Duane Edwards, Master Sgt. Ritchie
Post and retired Master Sgt. Thomas Castro had
a problem

They needed to perform a maintenance inspection on a critical refueling component of a KC-135R Stratotanker and the tool they were required to use needed improvement.

"The old test stand was unstable, it was inefficient and we thought it could be faster," said Edwards, the 916th Maintenance Squadron Hydraulics Shop flight chief. "We decided to come up with a better design based on the criterion in the technical order."

And that is just what they did. Roughly a year after the original concept for the new drogue test stand emerged, they developed and created a safer and more efficient piece of equipment to inspect a critical aircraft component.

"Initially, one of our biggest challenges was that the specifications were vague on the overall design of the test stand, which made us reluctant to build a new one," said Edwards.

The new device is professionally crafted, and blends in perfectly with the other manufacturer-made equipment in the hydraulics shop. It was also engineered to allow maintainers to apply different configurations to the tool for different stages of testing.

The new test stand has proven invaluable to the unit. It reduced overall inspection time by two hours per drogue and interface unit and eliminated a hazard present in the old testing process.

"This new stand safely holds the drogue during the test and inspection process and allows hydraulic shop personnel to perform the test and inspection in a timelier, more efficient manner," said MSgt Ritchie Post, a machinist with the 916th Maintenance Squadron.

"It made us much more efficient," said Edwards. "It is safe, and allows us to get more

work done faster."

The KC-135R tanker's primary mission is to perform in-flight refueling with a boom or drogue system. Edwards and the rest of the 916th MXS Hydraulics section are responsible for using the new stand to complete periodic inspections of all drogue and interface units. The introduction of this new tool into the aircraft maintenance system represents innovation at the wing level that will end up improving the efficiency and safety of the entire force.

"Chief of Staff of the Air Force General David Goldfein has put innovation and intrapreneurship at the top of his list of priorities. The 916th Air Refueling Wing is embracing General Goldfein's vision and encouraging innovation at every level," said 916th ARW Commander Col. Craig McPike. "What our maintenance team did is jump to the forefront of the Air Force's innovation efforts with this incredible new drogue test stand. Their problem solving and out of the box thinking makes me proud to be their commander."

TREACHEROUS TRAIL RESCUE

By Jeramy Moore, 916th Air Refueling Wing / Published November 20, 2018

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE -On the morning of October 06, 2018, 1st Lt.
Kirsten Kent, an Intelligence Officer with the
916th Operations Support Squadron and a group
of friends were hiking in the mountains of New
Mexico when they heard screams for help.

The group went into high alert, they began to investigate the source of the screams.

Eventually, they came across a child who explained that he was camping with family nearby and a tree had fallen on his parents' tent.

Instinctively, Kent led the group over to the boy's campsite to assess the situation and provide aid.

"We found the mother and father pinned under the fallen tree and immediately began to consider ways to help. I knew we needed to move the tree and that the individuals underneath would definitely need medical attention. The question was just how much" said Kent.

After removing the tree with the help of the family's oldest daughter, Kent inquired as to the condition of the injured. The couple showed no signs of external bleeding however, the mother reported a hip injury and the father complained of severe lower back pain.

In a critical moment, Kent sent a runner down the mountain to call for help. She remained at the campsite and began to comfort and aid the



injured.

My Self Aid Buddy Care training was helpful, but so was the overall stress of all the other training I've undergone. Learning to keep a cool head under pressure, to assess the situation, make a decision and act was very helpful here, said Kent.

Because hazardous conditions were still present, Kent also sent the couple's children down the mountain to safety. When one of the daughters could not find her jacket, Kent opted to brave the high winds and rain so that the girl would not have to.

At the Airman's direction, the remaining children packed up their gear and evacuated the mountain with Kent's husband, Josh. Thanks to her training, she was able to determine that the mother had gone into shock. Almost automatically, Kent and her friend Samantha began to pile sleeping bags on the injured woman after she complained of chills.

Eventually, the runner returned after successfully reaching out to first responders, and the group started down the mountain to meet them. The couple's injuries and falling sleet and hail made the descent a dangerous task but eventually, they all made it safely to the bottom.

"I just did what I hope any other person would have done if they'd been in that situation. I was thankful someone was there to help and was trained to do so, said Kent."

Search and rescue teams met the group a half-mile from the trailhead and emergency personnel were able to evacuate the injured to a nearby hospital.

"I was not surprised to hear about Lt Kent's selfless act though, I am very proud to have her in my squadron. She radiates optimism and her attitude is infectious, said Lt. Col. Amanda Person, the commander of the 916th OSS. It is this wholehearted disposition on life that compelled her to intervene even under extreme circumstances. I look forward to her safe return and the opportunity to watch the Air Force and all of society reap the rewards of such an outstanding Airman."

Kent was dogged in her determination to help. Every step of the way, she and her friends were there to provide assistance and direction to a couple in dire need. The family thanked Kent's group for their help.

"This solidified my belief that what we do in the AF Reserve is important. We are always on duty in our communities and beyond. We represent our branch in and out of uniform, and how we act and react is sometimes critically important," said Kent.



1st Lt. Kirsten Kent, an Intelligence Officer with the 916th Operations Support Squadron and a group of friends were hiking in the mountains of New Mexico when they heard screams for help. Kent, and her crew performed an incredible cliff side rescue of a couple injured by a fallen tree.

916 ARW Earns ATA

Award

By Tech. Sgt. Nestor Cruz, 916th Air Refueling Wing / Published November 14, 2018



Left: The 916th Air Refueling Wing won the coveted Lt Gen James E. Sherrard III Outstanding Unit Award at this year's Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium. The award is presented on an annual basis to a wing or group within the Air Force Reserve Command that distinguishes itself through performance and support of the Mobility Air Forces mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jeramy Moore)

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE --Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 916th Air Refueling Wing were recently recognized at this year's Airlift/Tanker Association symposium in Dallas, Texas for earning the coveted Lt Gen James E. Sherrard III Outstanding Unit Award.

The award is presented on an annual basis to a wing or group within the Air Force Reserve Command that distinguishes itself through performance and support of the Mobility Air Forces mission. A contingent of wing leaders and aircraft maintainers traveled to the Lone Star State to accept the award on behalf of the wing.

"It was a great experience," said Staff Sgt. Steven Potts, 916th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance craftsman. "Being recognized in front of many different wings brings pride and confidence. It really 're-blues' you and gives you a different perspective."

The wing received the award for its accomplishments from July 2017 to June 2018. Within that time frame, the 916th executed more than 760 sorties, clocked more than 4,500 flight hours, and

maintained the AFRC's number one KC-135 flying hour program three years in a row. Furthermore, 916th Airmen launched 1,240 combat missions, dispersed 30 million pounds of fuel to enable 2,200 strikes on enemy targets, and increased overall readiness from 45 to 94 percent.

"On day-to-day operations, we ensure that we give 110 percent, meaning we are very thorough and we take pride in our work," Potts said. "It's about quality and quantity, and putting in the blood, sweat, tears, and long hours to make sure the mission takes off on-time every time. "Everybody in our wing is an asset and plays a huge role in the mission for global reach," Potts added. Finally, wing members played a critical role in assisting Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. with hurricane recovery efforts.

"Earning the award is truly a testament to the caliber of Airmen within our wing," said Col. Craig McPike, 916th ARW commander. "It's truly an honor to work with such an exceptional team of professionals who consistently keep our wing at the forefront of combat readiness."

Some Airmen are humbled to receive the award, saying the work they do is to ensure mission success and not for recognition. "It's an incredible honor being recognized with this award," said Master Sgt. Rob Foor, 916th MXS maintenance operations center superintendent. "While the award certainly spotlights our job performance, we don't really strive for awards to prove we're the best in the business. Our iron is always in the air, our missions are consistently met in a timely manner, and our maintenance folks continue to put in long hours to make sure our wing is always mission-ready," he added.

While many wing members feel the same way, earning the outstanding unit award also means Team Seymour Johnson won't rest on its proverbial laurels. "As our wing commander said, 'So we're the best and we've earned this award. But we must continue to be better than we were today," said Foor.

916th in History From That to This

By Stephen Beckett, 916th Air Refueling Wing Historian





A C-124 unloading in 1965

The history of the 916th Air Refueling Wing began the 17th of January, 1963 at Donaldson Air Force Base. Its career began as a Troop and Cargo transport organization. After a series of reorganizations, installation changes, and new names, the 916th arrived at Seymour Johnson AFB as the 916th Air Refueling Group, on October 1st, 1986. Fast forward to 1994, and it was redesignated as a Wing on the 1st of October, 1994.

What happened to make such a drastic change from a troop and cargo transport organization to air refueling? Most organizations retain similar missions to their predecessors. What changed for the 916th?

There are many facets to explain the mission change of the 916th, and oddly, it is largely coincidental. It could be said that the 916th became a baby of response to evolution for the Air Force, as opposed to the status quo for so many other units. Long range bombing, and air supremacy were the watch words of the Air Force, borne from the realities of World War II. Strategic bombing could reduce a nation's military-industrial machine to dust, if properly performed. Jet aircraft were changing the skies: ever higher, faster, and longer.

The Air Force was experiencing, via the Cold War, a mad rush of scientific and economic volume. After World War II, the world relaxed a bit, believing that the worst was over and nothing could ever be as bad as the last half-century. But in August of 1949, an event occurred that would shock the United States into motion. The Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb, years ahead of expectations. As the realization of a bipolar world was setting in, the Jet Age was ushering in a new concept: we could reach anywhere, anytime, and deliver anything... But then a new realization: so could they.

Aircraft like the C-5 and the C-141 meant that we could move thousands of troops with fewer aircraft. But the Arms Race, the prime feature of the Cold War, meant that we needed parity with the enemy. The concept of a Nuclear Deterrent meant that our retaliatory capability needed to reach anywhere in the Soviet Union, the largest country in the world. First strike and retaliation, as policy, was hotly debated in the Pentagon and the White House. Our bombers had to be able to react at a moment's notice, and those bombers, needed fuel to be ready 24/7. Operation CHROME DOME, running from 1960 to 1968, kept B-52s on an orbital pattern allowing them

to strike within minutes of an alert.

Those B-52s needed constant refueling, and the refuelers necessary to maintain them. While Europe was expected to be the catalyst of a third world war, the Command Staff fully expected a guick escalation into to the nuclear realm. Hundreds of thousands of troops, on both sides, were pre-positioned on either side of the Iron Curtain. The reality was that heavy airlift capability simply was not as necessary anymore. There wouldn't be any more D-Day type operations. The very nature of war had changed from large mass invasions, to large capacity, single payload bomb deployments, whether from submarines, missiles, or bombers. Thus, the doctrinal change created by Strategic Air Command, under General Curtis LeMay, created the need for better, faster, and flexible Air Refueling to sustain operations in a high threat conflict.

The 916th was of those chosen to fundamentally change its mission to enable global reach- of any asset, tactical, strategic, or airlift and it has continued doing so. Whether a troop deployment in 1965, or a refueling mission in 1994, the 916th has maintained its mission: On Time, Every Time!

916th Recruiting Team





Recruiting Flight Chief

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SMSGT COLE CHAMBERLAIN

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