



# Wright Flyer

Vol. 13 No. 4 - Oct. 2019

916th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve - SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, N.C.



One Stitch at a Time...3  
916 ARW Refuels the Blue Angels...5  
What's Cooking in the Kitchen...11

# Command Team



**Craig McPike**  
Commander

916th Airmen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued service to our great nation. Any chance I get to brag about you, or remind you of how important you are to the success of our wing – I take it. Your participation allows our wing to provide national defense and security for the United States at home and abroad. We are able to do this because you remain ready to serve, to deploy, remain current in IMR, F2F, TFAT, CBRN, SABC, CATM, and qualified in your specific job or AFSC.

I am humbled and grateful knowing your willingness to go above and beyond whatever is asked. I challenge you to remain vigilant, think of ways to improve yourself and the Air Force. Take care of yourself by staying mentally, spiritually, and physically fit and let's all be proactive about taking care of Airmen. If you see someone struggling, someone who appears hopeless, or someone needs a lift, be that person who reaches out and offers a helping hand.

There is no question why we are the world's greatest Air Force, powered by Airmen and fueled by innovation. We fly, fight and win...we provide rapid global air refueling On Time, Every Time, and we are the premier integrated team of combat-ready Airmen. Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to serve alongside of you.



**Michael Parks**  
Vice Commander

Airmen of the 916th,

As the 916 Air Refueling Wing welcomes family members and significant others during the October 2019 UTA activities, I ask all of us to take a moment and say thank you to those people that support, encourage, and share our daily lives. Seeking nothing in return, those nearest to us sustain our motivation, build our resiliency, and give meaning to our service. Likely, your list of gratitude will extend to the obvious well-wishers such as parents, significant others, children, siblings, and close relatives, but I ask you to also consider thanking those Reserve Citizen, Active Duty, and Citizen Airmen that make our Wing a family. While these Airmen do not routinely spend holidays at our dinner table or share a car on our vacation, they stand immediately ready to provide a sympathetic ear when needed, an empathetic embrace when sought and a guiding hand when everything is going wrong. In every sense of the term, these people working beside and with us every day are our extended family. They are integral parts of our resiliency DNA, and after you read this, I simply ask you to recognize their contributions to your success. With that said...thank you all for being part of my Wing family and for being ready to laugh with me, ready to console me and ready to help me when I need it. Your contributions to our nation, our Wing and each other can never be repaid, but they can be appreciated. Thank You!



**Mark Kistler**  
Command Chief

916 Team,

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the Air Force Sergeants Association's Professional Airman's Conference, one of our seminars focused on resiliency. During this seminar a panel of Airmen who had overcome some extremely challenging circumstances requiring significant resiliency, shared their thoughts on how they overcame their respective "darkest days". The overwhelming consensus highlighted the need for someone to care. They didn't need their coworkers to understand their situation, just be an outlet for them to vent and show genuine compassion. While it may seem simple in its purest form, compassion requires each of us to take a vested interest in our coworkers. As we continue with our resiliency focus I ask you to ponder how you can show more compassion and engage with your coworkers in a positive manner routinely. You never know when a simple "how was your month or UTA?" could be the difference between someone choosing life over death. Use this October Family Day to get to know one another better and rejuvenate our focus to sustain hope within our Wing. Our families, and the mission depend on it.

# One Stitch at a Time

**916th Air Refueling Wing**  
**Editorial Staff**

**Col. Craig McPike**  
Commander

**Capt. Abby Dolak**  
Chief, Public Affairs

**Jeremy Moore**  
Operations Chief

**Capt. Jessica Guidone**  
Editor

**TSgt. Michael McGhee**  
NCOIC

**TSgt. Terrica Jones**  
Staff Writer

**SSgt. Mary McKnight**  
Staff Writer

**1195 Blakeslee Ave**  
**SJAFB, N.C. 27531**  
**Building 4814, 2nd Flr**  
**919-722-2230**

916ARW.PA@us.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wright Flyer are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Air Force or Department of Defense. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 916th Air Refueling Wing Office of Public Affairs.

Photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.



U.S. Air Force photo by Jeremy Moore

Master Sgt. (Ret.) Keena Alston, 916th Air Refueling Wing commanders secretary, poses in front of the dresses she makes as part of a non-profit campaign called "Dress a Girl Around the World" on July 12, 2019. In the program, she uses her gift to make dresses for indigent girls around the world.

**By Tech Sgt. Samuel King**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

One stitch at a time, that's how one 916th Air Refueling Wing member is making a difference in the world.

Keena Alston, the wing commander's secretary, uses her gift for sewing to make dresses for indigent girls around the world. Alston is part of a non-profit campaign called "Dress a Girl Around the World."

The "Dress a Girl" organization's volunteer groups bring together fabrics, ribbons, pillowcases, etc., to create simple, patterned dresses for girls of various ages. Those dresses are then sent to needy countries and delivered to the children by missionary volunteers.

"Some of the images we've seen show the girls in tattered clothing, sometimes rags or nothing at all," said Alston. "Getting a pretty new dress, it can be life-changing to these girls. "Since 2009, more than a million dresses were delivered to 81 countries, according to "Dress a Girl" founder, Rachel Eggum.

Each dress contains the "Dress a Girl Around the World" patch sewn on the front to show they are under the protection of the organization.

Alston said she discovered her gift for sewing after feeling a strong need to learn how to sew in 1995. She took lessons, got better and realized she was supposed to use this talent to create and help others.

While still serving on active duty in the Air Force, she had a small business making pageant gowns and flower girl dresses. Around the same time, she heard about the "Dress a Girl" prospect.

"God gives everyone a gift, I feel sewing is my gift," said the former personnelist. "It is very important to give back in some way and I can do that through this effort."

When the Air Force sent her to Japan, Alston seized the opportunity to become a "Dress a Girl" representative in Japan. She and other volunteers formed groups and hosted sewing parties to make dresses for needy children in Asia.

After retiring and moving here in February, she said she still wanted to help with the effort she felt so passionately about.

See 'One Stitch' Page 8

# 916 ARW welcomes new vice commander

By Staff Sergeant Mary McKnight  
Public Affairs Staff

The 916th Air Refueling Wing gave a warm welcome to their new vice commander, Col. Michael B. Parks, who touched down July 10, here.

What a warm welcome it was.

"I left Germany and it was a hot spell," said Parks as he laughed at the thought. "It was 85 degrees with zero percent humidity when I left and all the Germans were feeling the heat. As I show up to Goldsboro its 98 degrees with 100 percent humidity and it feels like 107 degrees."

Like climate changes, one chapter ends and another begins as Parks is ready to focus on his new task at hand, the 916 ARW.

Parks' personal goal is to help out the wing commander, Col. Craig McPike, with the Airmen and mission of the 916 ARW. He is fully dedicated to integrating himself into the culture of the 916 ARW while taking care of the Airmen. With 22 years of active duty experience Parks admits he still has a lot to learn about the challenges of reservists, how they stay mission ready and still fulfill their civilian commitments.

To help make this a smooth transition Parks requested the following.

"All I ask is that people come up to introduce themselves," said Parks. "Be patient with me as I try to learn all of your names in a short period of time and letting me know where I can help. That's all I'm here to do. If I do not know what you need I can't help you. All I ask is you come to meet me and tell me where I can help."

His path to the 916 ARW is very straight, unlike his start into the Air Force.

His dad was a tennis coach, so Parks played tennis competitively his entire life. Being from Columbus, Ohio he looked into attending, "the" Ohio State University, which is how Ohio natives refer to Ohio State University, said Parks with a laugh.

Parks consulted with his parents, more



Courtesy photo by Jennifer Butterfield

The 916th Air Refueling Wing gave a warm welcome to their new vice commander, Col. Michael B. Parks, his wife Ali and their two children, who touched down July 10, 2019.

specifically his dad, a prior Army draftee in the Vietnam War when The United States Military Academy at West Point attempted to recruit Parks for tennis. He visited the historic campus and saw how beautiful it was. His dad posed one question to Parks, did want to live in a tent?

The apparent answer was no, but his visit did spark an interest in the military. Parks contacted and visited the United States Naval Academy that he described as gorgeous, but he didn't want to live on a ship, said Parks.

Quite naturally, the next option was The United States Air Force Academy.

"We contacted the Air Force Academy's coach and they flew me out there," said Parks. "I went out to the United States Air Force Academy and just fell in love with it. I joined the military via the Air Force Academy and played tennis on the varsity team all four years."

That rally between the academies ended with a groundstroke delivered by the Air Force Academy for the win

and lead to jumpstarting Parks' Air Force career.

More than twenty years and three KC-135 Stratotanker assignments later Parks is ecstatic to join the 916 ARW as the wing embarks on an amazing opportunity to be the first wing in Air Force Reserve Command to demonstrate the capabilities of the KC-46A Pegasus and integrate the KC-46A into the same mission types flown by the KC-135, said Parks.

Parks welcomes the 916 ARW in the same regard as the 916 ARW has welcomed himself and his family upon arrival, warmly.

"Thank you to the entire team for welcoming me and my family to the 916th," said Parks. "I look forward to meeting members of the wing and carrying forward their reserve-citizen Airmen perspectives back to active duty."

# 916 ARW Refuels Blue Angels



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

U.S. Navy Lt. James Cox, a pilot for the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, flies a F/A-18 Hornet C/D to be refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker, over Loring Air Force Base, Maine, Aug. 26, 2019. The 916th Air Refueling Wing provided the KC-135 used to refuel the Blue Angels.

## By Staff Sergeant Mary McKnight Public Affairs Staff

The 77th Air Refueling Squadron of the 916th Air Refueling Wing departed the flightline to refuel the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, over Loring Air Force Base, Maine, Aug. 26.

Upon completion of the New York Air Show on Aug. 24-25 in Windsor, New York, the Blue Angels needed their fuel topped off to travel for a scheduled performance at the Air Show Atlantic, Aug. 31, in Greenwood, Nova Scotia.

The 916 ARW was there to complete the mission by providing the Blue Angels with approximately 60 pounds of fuel to get them to their next show, said Col. Craig McPike, commander of the 916 ARW here.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning two aircrews departed in two KC-135 Stratotankers to refuel the Blue Angels. Although this was not the first time the 916 ARW refueled the Blue Angels, it was a first for some of the crew-members.

"I'm blessed to have gotten this opportunity," said 1st Lt. Nickie Bodie, a 77

ARS pilot, about her first time refueling the Blue Angels. "Especially since we're not going to be flying the KC-135 much longer, before we transition to the KC-46. This could be the last time our squadron gets to refuel the Blue Angels. It's pretty awesome."

For another member of the aircrew his first time refueling the Blue Angels brought about childhood memories.

"I went to see the Blue Angels when I was 11 years old," said Tech Sgt. Dan Frost, a 77 ARS boom operator. "Being able to refuel them now is a dream come true to me because as a kid I would have never thought I would be refueling the Blue Angels."

Despite the excitement of the Blue Angels and recollecting his childhood memories, Frost was able to focus on the mission first.

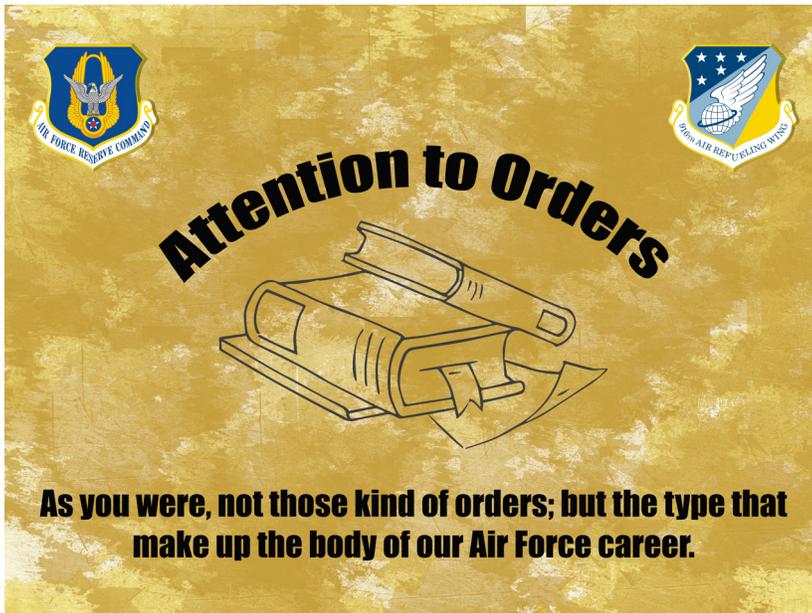
"Whether it's an F-16, F-18 or the Blue Angels, it's all the same mission to us," said Frost. "We go up there to refuel whoever needs it, I think that's

the most important thing. We do the mission the same way, every single time, the same procedures every day."

The 916 ARW lived up to their mission by delivering fuel whenever and wherever needed.

"To look out over my wing and see the Blue Angels flying in fingertip formation really made for a great day," said McPike. "It made me feel really proud to be an Airman in the 916 ARW. I'd like to give a shout out to all of our maintainers that keep our aircraft ready, the logistics support folks who makes sure our fuel is loaded, and to our aircrew who remain resilient and ready to fly our aircraft and make it happen. We had some challenges to overcome today, but no different than any other day. Today we advanced air power, improved our position and ensured that our country is safe by practicing air refueling. It's what we do."

# Attention to Orders



U.S. Air Force Illustration by Capt. Abby Dolak

Attention to orders! A crash course in the different types of reserve orders.

**By Staff Sergeant Mary McKnight**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

Attention to orders!

As you were, not those kind of orders; but the type of orders that make up the body of our Air Force career. We have Basic Military Training orders, Technical Training orders, Active Duty for Operational Support orders and Annual Training orders. The list goes on and on. Orders come in different forms over the course of an Air Force reservist's career and it can be hard to keep up with the specified scope of every order issued.

While there may be many different types of orders outlined in Air Force Instruction 36-2254, "Reserve Personnel Participation," this particular article will narrow in on just a few.

Some of the most common orders issued within the 916th Air Refueling Wing are for BMT, school, AT or ADOS, said Keibu B. Kamarakafego, a Military Pay Specialist with the 916th ARW.

As a part of Active Duty Training, AT is the 15-day period exclusive of travel time, required as a minimum to meet your reserve commitment. When on AT orders each member has a maximum of four calendar travel days available

for use. While this is an entitlement, supervisors cannot split AT orders in order to increase the pay factor for their member. AT can only be split when it is beneficial to training needs. Furthermore, should a member need to save travel days, a supervisor may grant the member a delayed start on the morning of the first duty day and/or an early release on the afternoon of the last duty day. Due to the length of time set aside for AT orders, leave cannot be accrued during this period.

As in the career of an Air Force reservist lets transition from one order type to the next.

Reserve Personnel Appropriations and Military Personnel Appropriations, also known as ADOS orders, are used for projects in direct support of Reserve component programs where training is not the main priority for the member. Although ADOS orders are referred to as both RPA & MPA tours, neither of the two can be combined. Also, to ensure no disruption of benefits and entitlements to the member and/or their dependents, under no circumstance is a member to be taken off ADOS orders for holidays or weekends only to resume orders to complete the same task

the next working day following the holiday or weekend. Additionally, since ADOS orders can be issued in increments of 30 days or more, leave can be accrued.

Use it or lose it? It's not quite that simple when it comes to accrued leave.

Reserve members are not required to use, sell or lose their leave. While carryover leave cannot be used in conjunction with AT orders it can be used with their next active duty long tour. Leave is accrued on orders of 30 days or more and must be included in the orders at the time they are issued or before they are closed out, whether spread throughout or at the end of the order. Per AFI 36-2254, outside of any unforeseen circumstances, the member must be afforded the opportunity to take leave and cannot be forced to sell unused leave at the end of a tour.

Although leave is a right, unit commanders will approve or deny leave based on mission needs. For that reason, AFI 36-3003, "Military Leave Program" encourages leave to be used as it is accrued.

Knowing the scope of orders and how to apply leave is important for all reservists to know, along with how to be compensated for their orders. Reservists must remember to certify their orders one of two ways; manually or through the Air Reserve Orders Writing System-Reserve.

"We honestly would like everyone to do everything in AROWS-R, that's the ultimate goal," said Kamarakafego. "When you do it through AROWS-R it takes away from the human error."

So again, attention to orders; the orders that guide your career, determine your leave and ensure you are compensated for your work. For every order that is issued, there is guidance to provide you the scope of that order and the parameters in which they can be used. While a few order types and the scope in which they can be utilized were touched upon, more details can be reviewed in AFI 36-2554 and AFI 36-3003.

# Time Management is Money Management

By SSgt. Mary J. McKnight  
Public Affairs Staff

There is an old saying, “time is money” and while the saying is old, the concept is one that will never expire. This is why the Defense Finance and Accounting Service operates the Automated Time Attendance and Production System housed in the Defense Information System Agency, which ensures civilian and Air Reserve Technician employees are accurately paid for the work they execute on a daily basis.

For civilians and ARTs their pay rests solely in their hands.

The Air Force Reserve Command Instruction 36-803, “Air Reserve Technician Time and Attendance Procedures and Audits,” requires training once a year, the 916th ARW intends to offer quarterly training on ATAAPS for time keepers and certifiers as new users and refreshers, said Keena Alston, commander’s secretary of the 916th Air Refueling Wing and the wing’s time and attendance point of contact.

The wing recognizes the importance of time and attendance and wants to set civilians and ARTs up for success.

“It’s directly related to your pay,” said Alston. “When people don’t input their information on time, DFAS will automatically process 80 hours that will be deducted from their annual leave balance. If the person does not have enough accumulated leave the system will process it as leave without pay. This is why it is critical that members enter their own time into ATAAPS.”

To minimize these sort of mishaps Alston sends out reminders for civilians and ARTs to certify their time on a consistent basis.

Although these sort of issues can be corrected, it’s not always a smoo-



U.S. Air Force Illustration by TSgt. Micheal Mcghee

**The Defense Finance and Accounting Service operates the Automated Time Attendance and Production System housed in the Defense Information System Agency, which ensures civilian and Air Reserve Technician employees are accurately paid for the work they execute on a daily basis.**

th process. The system has to be updated so the correct pay and leave can flow through. If the system flows as it should, at minimum the civilian or ART will be compensated by the next pay period, said Alston.

This is why it is critical that members enter their own time into ATAAPS and Janay Serlick, the budget officer with the 916th ARW agrees with Alston. Members need to certify their ATAAPS on time, confirm their time-cards are filled out completely and accurately, said Serlick. If members are on military orders they need to ensure there is no conflict of civilian time or military time on their time-cards.

The finance department wants to make sure members get paid on time. However, some things, like dual compensation, is out of their control.

“Dual compensation is a huge thing in this wing, because we have ARTs,” said Alston. “ARTs perform duties in two different statuses, Title 5 as a civilian or Title 10 as a military member. When on active/inactive duty or on military travel status ARTs must be in a civilian leave status

during the civilian duty hours. Leave must be charged for second and all subsequent days when on consecutive days of active duty orders, regardless to if it’s one or several sets of orders. All leave must requested and approved by the certifying official via ATAAPS,” said Alston.

Remember, time is money. In this case, it’s your time and your money. If you do not record it precisely or in a timely manner you will not be paid properly.

This wing has provided civilians and ARTs with the necessary tools to report their time which is due every other week on their pay day. ATAAPS is accessible anywhere with your Common Access Card, a computer and a CAC reader. Each group and unit has their own time keepers and certifiers that can be sought out for assistance.

ATAAPS is required to get your time, time is required to get paid, do not forget to pay yourself.

# Team Seymour Chiefs Group Recognizes Key Airmen



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Chiefs Group recognizes U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Collin E. Schmidt, a 916th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Instrument Flight Control Technician, as a superior performer, SJAFB, North Carolina, Aug. 7, 2019. Schmidt was presented with a certificate and coined for identifying and fixing an error on an aircraft that was written up for the same issue nine times.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

On behalf of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB) Chiefs Group, U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Vincent N. Clevinger, the 911th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) Superintendent presents U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kayla D. Lee, a member of the 911 ARS, Aviation Management, with a certificate and a coin for being a superior performer, SJAFB, North Carolina, Aug. 7, 2019. Lee was recognized for working over 300 hours in the month of July on a new tasking transition project.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Chiefs Group recognizes U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Monica D. Duarte, the 916th Air Refueling Wing Development and Training Flight Chief, as a superior performer, SJAFB, North Carolina, Aug. 7, 2019. Duarte was presented with a certificate and coined for administering lifesaving techniques on an unconscious, delayed entry program, trainee on June 2, 2019.

## Group Commander Corner



Legendary coach Dean Smith had a philosophy his teams adhered to: "Play Hard, Play Smart, Play Together" and the University of North

Carolina's basketball team still claims it today.

This is the third and final article in a series exploring "Play Hard, Play Smart, Play Together" as it relates to our Wing.

In this newsletter, "Play Together" takes the stage. Coach Smith said, "Together meant unselfishly, trusting your teammates, and doing everything possible not to let them down."

We provide Rapid Global Refueling, but the aircraft we accomplish that mission with is about to change. As we send our beloved KC-135s to Fairchild starting this month (October), we will begin the transition to the KC-46 in earnest. Our maintenance teammates have their work cut out for them changing out nearly everything they work with to prepare for the arrival of the KC-46, not to

mention getting trained on the new aircraft. Our operators and operations support teammates have months of training to accomplish and new equipment/roles to learn. The KC-46 also brings with it new functions that our comm teammates will play a role in. There is much to learn and do across the Wing, so let's do everything possible to not let each other down.

Together, we will work through and solve the challenges awaiting us as we forge ahead in the KC-46 and continue to provide Rapid Global Refueling.

Thanks once again for what you do in executing YOUR mission!

Operations Group Commander,  
Col. Chris Holland

# 916 ARW Prepares for the worst and hopes for the best



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

KC-135 Stratotankers sit on the flightline on Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, Sept. 4, 2019. The aircraft are being prepared for repositioning for safe keeping at an alternate location, during Hurricane Dorian.

**By SSgt. Mary J. McKnight**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

With the exception of mission essential personnel, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base shut down normal operations Sept. 5-6, for emergency preparedness.

In response to Hurricane Dorian, the 916th Air Refueling Wing here, activated their emergency preparedness plan. Following the lead of the 4th Fighter Wing, this makes the second time in two years, the first being in response to Hurricane Florence.

"Preparedness not only has been proven to save lives, but creates efficient mission accomplishment for Airmen in the 916 ARW," said Master Sgt. Kevin Merrill, the 916 ARW emergency manager. "When making the effort upfront, preparedness mitigates the effects of hazards from natural disasters like hurricanes to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks."

The 916 ARW emergency manager and wing commander were on the same page in regards to emergency preparedness.

"Our main priority is the safety and well-being of our Airmen," said Col. Craig McPike, the 916 ARW commander. "They are our number one asset in the Air Force. Our Airmen allow us to complete our mission, without our Airmen there would be no mission."

In the spirit of mission continuity the 916 ARW took a three phase approach with Hurricane Dorian on the horizon.

First, we repositioned our aircraft to ensure they were safe from the effects of Hurricane Dorian. Second, we focused on our Airmen, their families and the base infrastructure. Third, we maintained accountability of our Airmen and their families, re-opened the base and began repositioning our aircraft, said McPike.

It is not the wing's goal to instill fear of approaching hurricanes or other natural disasters, but to keep Airmen, their families and the local community informed so they are prepared to weather any storm. This is why the 916 ARW prepares for the worst, all the while hoping for the best.

With the support of leadership, Senior Airman Ian C. Shenk, a 916th Maintenance Squadron isochronal dock inspector, said he felt safe and as though he had an ample amount of time and opportunity to take care of work and home necessities, prior to Hurricane Dorian.

After putting the aircraft that we were inspecting back together and securing it on the flightline we were released to go secure our homes, said Shenk.

The wing accomplished exactly what they set out to do in respect to emergency preparedness.

# 916th ARW Hosts North Carolina ESGR



*U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight*

Members of the 916th Air Refueling Wing poses for a group photo with 40 civilian employers of members of the 916 ARW on the flightline at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, Sept.13. The 916 ARW, in collaboration with the North Carolina Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, hosted a base tour and boss lift to give employers an inside look of an Airman's life when in military status.

## One Stitch, Page 3

---



*U.S. Air Force photo by Jeremy Moore*

She also expanded her dress-making effort to help make Angel Gowns. These are wedding dresses that are re-purposed into burial gowns for still born and prematurely dead children.

Alston hopes to incorporate any 916thARW volunteers in her community effort and sewing group. Alston plans to host a wing dress-making volunteer event in the near future for anyone who would like to help the cause or even discover a new gift or hobby.

For those interested in volunteering, but with no sewing abilities, Alston said there's an opportunity to learn a new skill for anyone who's willing.

For more information or to volunteer, send an email to [916arw.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:916arw.pa@us.af.mil).

# What's Cooking in the Kitchen



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary McKnight

916th Force Support Squadron troops pose for a photo at the Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Sept. 19, 2019. The 916 FSS volunteered 25 troops, three days a week within a two week span to serve food during their annual tour.

**By SSgt. Mary J. McKnight**  
*Public Affairs Staff*

"I put a lot of love into the food," said Susan M. Britt, a cook at the Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro. "I try to make it creative, good and tasty for them; so they can have a nice meal and enjoy it."

The food Britt prepared is the same food that volunteers from the 916th Force Support Squadron, served at the soup kitchen during their annual tour, Sept. 9-23.

"I figured that if we're going to be here in our local community doing our annual tour," said Master Sgt. Nathan L. Rentfrow, 916 FSS first sergeant. "What better way to give back to a community that supports us so much than to get out into the community and help serve those in need."

That's exactly what Rentfrow and his

troops signed up for by supporting the Goldsboro community over a two week period.

With 25 people on annual tour, to include myself, I coordinated with the director of the soup kitchen to rotate all of us for three days a week, two hours a day, for two weeks, said Rentfrow.

With that, the seeds were planted toward fulfilling the Whole Airmen Concept, which includes leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement and base/community involvement.

The volunteers are doing what they would be doing in a deployed environment, prepping and serving food, said Rentfrow.

Similarly, the soup kitchen has been preparing and serving food to the community since Dec. 15, 1980.

"Everyone has their reasons why they are in here today," said Doricia L. Benton, director of the Community Soup Kitchen of Goldsboro. "There are no questions asked. All are welcomed and I emphasize all, because they don't have to sign up. They do not have to qualify and it's been like that since day one. They are welcome to come six days a week, 52 weeks a year."

Two years ago, Benton expanded the services of the soup kitchen.

"I started the Alphabet Soup Homework club," said Benton. "On Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., I help my soup babies with their homework. We have crafts, reading and of course homework. Every child that participates gets supper to take home, for themselves and members in their household."

Being a nonprofit organization, the soup kitchen runs off of 100 percent donations, volunteers and a small permanent staff.

"I think it's a wonderful thing when the base volunteers in the community," said Benton. "Whether it be the soup kitchen or any other organization. Here, I think it's special because a lot of my friends are veterans as well."

Like Benton, the 916th Mission Support Group commander thinks this was a great opportunity for troops to come out and serve the community.

"They are tying readiness training in with community service," said Lt. Col. Joseph Winchester, 916 MSG commander. "I couldn't be more proud of these Airmen for stepping up, Sgt. Rentfrow is probably mad at me for bringing attention to this act of service. This is the kind of thing you don't want credit for, and you do it because it's the right thing to do."

For more information or to volunteer as a server or tutor, call 919-731-3939 or email [doriciab@yahoo.com](mailto:doriciab@yahoo.com).

# The 911th Air Refueling Squadron Lineage

By Stephen Beckett  
*Wing Historian*

The 911th Air Refueling Squadron Lineage

Can you imagine living for one hundred and two years, changing your name, job and home, every few years, sometimes two or three times a year?

Lineage is basically the family tree; the where and when of an organization. Terms like “constituted,” “inactivated,” “consolidated,” and “reorganized” are often used to specify significant points in a unit’s lineage.

The Lineage of the 911th ARS reaches back to around May, 1917. The 911th was the 16 Aero Squadron then, flying Nieuport 27s and 80s, similar to this one, pictured.



During the opening of World War I, aircraft were used primarily as reconnaissance and artillery spotters, then quickly became attack and bomber platforms. The 16 Aero Squadron, initially flight instruction at Kelly Field, Texas, was redesignated the 21 Aero Squadron in Jun, 1917. Following World War I, on 14 April, 1919, the 21st was demobilized, as were many Army Air Service units.

The 21st Aero Squadron was reconstituted and redesignated the 21st Observation Squadron on 24 March, 1923, but disbanded on 1 October, 1933. The 21 Reconnaissance Squadron and the 21st Observation

Squadron were consolidated on 1 March, 1935 to be the 21st Observation Squadron (Long Range, Heavy).

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the Army Air Service was reorganized into the Army Air Corps, and air proponents were struggling to find a place in a doctrinally stagnant Army. Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell sank a salvaged German Battleship, Ostfriesland, on 21 July, 1921, using only air forces. The act was hugely symbolic of the tactical use of air power.

During these years, initiatives across the U.S. and Europe were expanding technologies and understanding; long range, record setting flights, aerial refueling, and exercises were quickly changing perspectives toward military doctrine.

On 1 September, 1936, the 21st Observation Squadron (Long Range, Heavy) was redesignated the 21st Reconnaissance Squadron, then redesignated again, on 6 December, 1939 as the 21st Reconnaissance Squadron (Long Range). During this period, the 21st was flying the Douglas O-38, pictured here:



Again, on 20 November, 1940, it was redesignated as the 21st Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy). This would be its last name change until after 7 December, 1941, commonly referred to as simply “Pearl Harbor.”

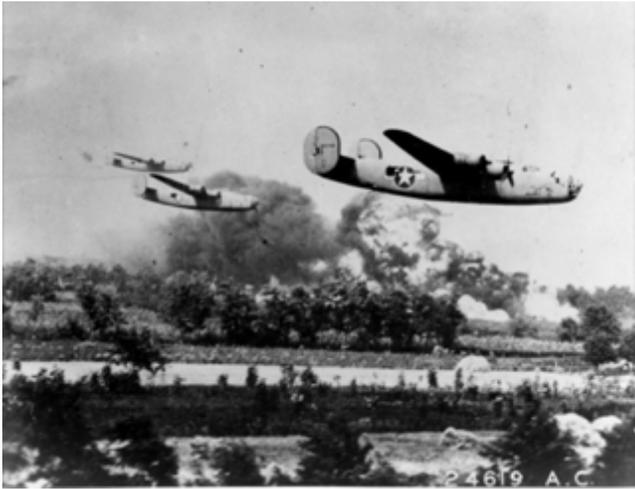
On 22 April, 1944, the 21st was redesignated the 411th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy). Throughout 1944, the 411th was stationed at Gowen

Field, Indiana, Pratt Army Airfield, Kansas, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, Dalhart Airfield, Texas, and Grand Island Airfield, Nebraska. During 1944, the 411th flew B-24s and transitioned to B-29s while moving from Nebraska to Northwest Field, Guam. From May, 1945 to April, 1946, it was from Guam that the 411th saw combat in the Pacific Theater.



The 411th was inactivated following World War II on 15 April, 1946. It remained “on a shelf” until 19 September, 1985 when it was consolidated with the newly created 911th Air Refueling Squadron. The 911th Air Refueling Squadron had been constituted on 28 May, 1958 under the 4241st Strategic Wing, at Seymour Johnson AFB. The 4241st was a Strategic Air Command wing flying B-52s and KC-135s. Having consolidated with the 411th, the 911th now absorbed the 411th’s history as its own, and the two will never be





separated.

In April of 1963 the 911th was reassigned to the 68th Bombardment Wing, later redesignated in 1982, as the 68th Air Refueling Wing, still at Seymour Johnson AFB. The 911th was subsequently assigned to the 4th Fighter Wing on 22 April 1991. From April of 1994 to June of 2007, the 911th called Grand Forks, North Dakota home until 12 April 2008 when it was reassigned to MacDill AFB and the 6th Air Mobility Wing, as Detachment 1, at Seymour Johnson AFB and the 916th Air Refueling Wing.

If the 911th were ever inactivated and reactivated, it's Lineage, Honors, and Heraldry would remain as it is now.

# A Message from the Director of Physiological Health

As Director of Psychological Health (DPH) I am available for short term solution focused problem solving.

The services I provide are confidential as long as there are no mission impacting concerns or safety concerns reported. I am available to brief individual units on Resiliency and a variety of other topics including but not limited to: Stress Management, Anger Management, Successful Workplace Relationships, Healthy Relationships and Personality.

I am a Master Resiliency Trainer and I am able to share information with you about Resilience, the ability to successfully adapt and recover after stress or a challenge and continue to

perform well in the face of change or stress. Resilience is more than just dealing with stress. Resilient people have a strong sense of well-being and purpose. Resilient people don't have fewer negative emotions, instead they feel more positive emotions. Feeling more positive emotions helps us to bounce back from stress and adversity.

Going forward consider gratitude to build resiliency. Resilience can be learned. No matter where you start, there is always room for growth.

Gratitude builds optimism and positive emotions by paying attention to good things. Gratitude can help you cope with stress and daily

hassles. Gratitude can improve social relationships. A regular gratitude practice can help you deal with daily stressors as well as adversity in life. Think of something each day that you are grateful for and consider why it went well, why it was meaningful and who contributed to this good thing.

Stop by Room 111 in Building 4814 and write your name and something you are grateful for on a leaf. Place your leaf on the Gratitude tree outside Room 111.

To contact Mrs. Price at: [jennifer.price.7@us.af.mil](mailto:jennifer.price.7@us.af.mil) or 919-722-1899 (Ofc) and 984- 277-7882 (Cell)

# Airman and Family Readiness

# JOB FAIR Oct 8

## 10 am-1 pm Heritage Hall



*Local + national employers recruiting/hiring  
Open to all with base access*

Airman & Family Readiness Center **722.1123**

## A&FR November Classes

**What:**  
Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) 101

**When:**  
0800-0900 , Sat 2 Nov 19

**Where:**  
Eagles Landing; Pegasus Room

**Target Audience:**  
Individuals that Want to Retire One Day

**What:**  
Professional Enhancement Seminar  
(Geared towards NCO's; all welcome)

**When:**  
0915-1015, Sat 2 Nov 19

**Where:**  
Eagles Landing; Pegasus Room

**Target Audience:**  
Members Enrolled in BRS / Supervisors

**What:**  
First Duty Station Financial Briefing

**When:**  
1030-1230, Sat 2 Nov 19

**Where:**  
Eagles Landing; Pegasus Room

**Target Audience:**  
FDS Airmen and Officers; Anyone Interested



