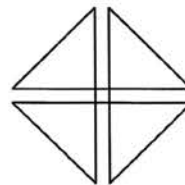


# OWL EYES



"The readiness is all"

March 1998

93d MXS Community Network

## Command change set

The wing announced March 18 that Lt. Col. Sarah Smith will be promoted to the position of 93d Logistics Group Deputy Commander. Replacing her as 93d MXS squadron commander will be Maj. Mark Conversino, a maintenance officer currently teaching at Maxwell AFB. The change of command ceremony will April 28. 2Lt. Forest W. Jackson is the point of contact for the ceremony (327-2797).

## Commander's husband named to national post

While the commander was getting her career boost, I received one as well. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities selected me to serve on its Subcommittee on Communications.

The President's Committee, founded by President Truman, is a small federal agency supporting a network of business and community leaders who advocate for people with disabilities through information, training and technical assistance. My nomination is the result of eight years writing on disability issues for national trade and consumer magazines. The three-year subcommittee term runs through 2000.

## Goodbye to Owl Eyes

Because of the change in command and my new additional duties, this will be my last issue of *Owl Eyes*. My purpose with this newsletter was to not only disseminate information about squadron and wing activities, but also to link all members of the 93d MXS Community Network and provide a forum for families to prepare for and cope with deployments and other hassles the Air Force throws at us.

In my introductory letter to MXS families 18 months ago, I stated that I was a non-traditional spouse looking to bring a sense of community that all family members could relate with and turn to for comfort and support. I quickly discovered this squadron already had a strong sense of community spirit from its pre-93d days; I just tapped that attitude and talent. You are all, military and family members alike, a special group, and one of the highlights of my life has been being a part of your community. Thanks for having me.

— Eric Minton

## Deployment Update

The Department of Defense is planning to keep its current force level in the Persian Gulf for many more months. Consequently, the 93d ACW plans to rotate deployed members. All MXS families should prepare for a possible deployment in the coming months.

### Greetings from Southwest Asia (SWA)

Our weather has been much like yours: lots of rain, wind and cold, leaving the desert a sea of reddish mud, reminding us even more of home.

All the 93d MXSers are performing great and doing well. We have adjusted to living in tents with several roommates; walking three blocks to bathrooms and showers; drinking lots of bottled water and eating lots of ice cream—but they don't replace home.

Our aircraft is flying well and when we are not working, we have time to write letters, study, read, workout or work on our tans. SMSgt. Tom "Snaps" Stretch as deployment photographer takes lots of digital photos so everyone has at least one to send home, and lots have

been sent back to the wing for the *Razor's Edge*, *Robins Rev Up* and deployed spouses' meetings.

We are allowed only one morale call of 10 minutes each week that must be initiated from here—not often enough or long enough, but with only one phone line for every 100 people here we have to share. The good news is that e-mails are coming through just fine, and mail arrives fairly regularly. And in case of emergencies we have unrestricted phone access.

Unfortunately, we don't know when we'll be returning home, but as soon as we know, you'll know. Until then, take care of yourselves for us; we'll take care of ourselves for you.

— Lt. Col. Sarah Smith

### Keeping in touch, getting paid, other info

#### Mailing address:

Grade, Name  
93 EACCS  
Unit 70425 Box 99  
APO AE 09882-5000

#### E-mail address:

93eaccslga@jstars.af.mil.

In the subject line, put the last name first, then a colon, then two spaces before putting other words. Example:

Smith: How are you?

#### Video calls:

Are still being set up, and once the system is working, families will be notified.

#### Foreign duty pay:

E-1/E-2, \$8 per month  
E-3, \$9 per month  
E-4, \$13 per month  
E-5, \$16 per month  
E-6, \$20 per month  
E-7/E-9, \$22.50 per month

#### Hostile fire pay:

\$150 per month authorized for all personnel.

#### Combat zone tax break:

While deployed, enlisted salary is not taxed by the federal government and states. For officers, the first \$4377.90 is free of federal and state income tax.

#### BAS:

All personnel deployed to SWA are authorized Basic Allowance for Subsistence at a rate of \$155.70 per month for officers and \$7.43 per day for enlisted. Members also receive \$3.50 per day for incidentals.

#### Family Separation Allowance:

After 30 continuous days apart, family get \$3.33 per day or \$100 per month.

#### Travel vouchers:

A finance office is available for deployed members to file accrual travel vouchers after every 30 days in theater. The Robins finance office can also provide support. Contact the first sergeant if you need help.

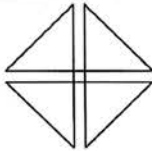
#### Care packages:

Prohibited from entering the host country:

- Alcohol;
- Sexually explicit pictures, videos, books or magazines, including fitness magazines that show a bare upper body;
- Controlled substances.

Prescription drugs must be accompanied by dispensing pharmacy's original label.

## OWL EYES



*In this issue:*

- *Deployment News*
- *Change of Command*
- *Owl Eyes Goodbyes*
- *Chili Winners*

## Congratulations!

### *To our multiple award winner*

MSgt. Diane M. Morelli, Avionics, won Senior NCO of the Year for both Robins AFB and 9th Air Force.

### *To our newly promoted members*

Sr.A. Joseph W. Davis of Maintenance to Staff Sergeant.

Sr.A. James T. Love of Fabrication to Staff Sergeant.  
A1C Maurice J. Feer Jr. of Accessories to Senior Airman.

AB. David A. Tackett of Propulsion to Airman.

### *To our promotion selectees*

MSgt. Ronald C. Cotterman of Maintenance to Senior Master Sergeant.

MSgt. Gregory A. Fechter of Maintenance to Senior Master Sergeant.

A1C John R. Abate of Maintenance below-the-zone to Senior Airman.

## Eyrie Actions

The second annual 93d Wing **Safety Fair** is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 8:30 a.m. to noon at the ISO Dock (Outback building 2081). Along with demonstrations and literature on all aspects of safety, the fair will feature food booths and static display of aircraft. Families are invited, and military members are authorized to wear civilian clothes.

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**Right Start**, the wing's orientation briefing, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, in Coats Halls (Building 2051). All family members, including children, are invited to this presentation, which gives you insight into the Joint STARS

mission and the 93d ACW's programs.

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The annual **Middle Georgia Military Ball** will be Friday, April 3 at the Macon City Auditorium. The USAF Honor Guard and US Army Chorus will provide entertainment. Dress is mess dress for military, formal for civilians. Tickets at \$35 per person are available on a first-come-first-serve basis from Capt. William Cowan, 327-2577.

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MXS members scored well in the **Base Team Bowling Roll-Off**. MSgt. Bob Chamblin and Sr.A. Allison Dewey made the team, and TSgt. Danilo Bueno was

named an alternate. The team went on to competition at Kelly AFB.

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PCSing families now can get **20 hours free child care** thanks to the Air Force Family Child Care Program in conjunction with Family Support Centers and Air Force Aid Society. Robins AFB is one of the test sites. Thirty days within departure from or arrival at the test bases, the family can get free on-base child care with a certificate from the Family Support Center. The certificates are valid only at the test bases. The other sites are Luke AFB, Arizona; Dyess AFB, Texas; Dover AFB, Delaware; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Spangdahlem Air Base, Spain.

## Oh Deer! Venison chili wins annual cook-off

Surrounded by Spanish moss, antlers and other hunting paraphernalia, a group of MXSers challenged all comers to best their venison chili in the Third Annual 93d MXS Community Network Chili Cook-Off.

Question their decorating taste, if you will, but their tasty chili won the day. SSgt. Tommy Kitchens of LGMQ was chosen Best Of Show. He won the squadron's open category, then bested the venison chili of SSgt. James Jones of AR Flight, which took the squadron's hot category prize, and Charlotte Case's white chili, chosen tops among the invitational entries.

Other entries from MXS were Lorie Peterson and SMSgt. Chuck Reeves of Supervision, both contributing pots of venison chili. Taking up the

invitational gauntlet were Mary Beth Owen, MSgt. Shirley Glaze of PA, and A1C Sharon Epperly of LSS.

Judging the competition were the two MXS winners from last year's cook-off, TSgt. (sel.) Sherry Pellegrino and Eva Miller. They were joined by Capt. Mustafa "Cujo" Koprucu.

Contributing to the competition's success were Carolyn Handley, who baked biscuits, and MSgt. Staci Bradley of LG, who whipped up batches of cornbread.

The Community Network raised \$88 as the chili sold out in less than an hour. Consequently, the Palmetto Buggy had nothing to carry to the other shifts. My apologies to all who missed out on the meal, and my thanks to everybody who provided the food and fun.

— Eric Minton