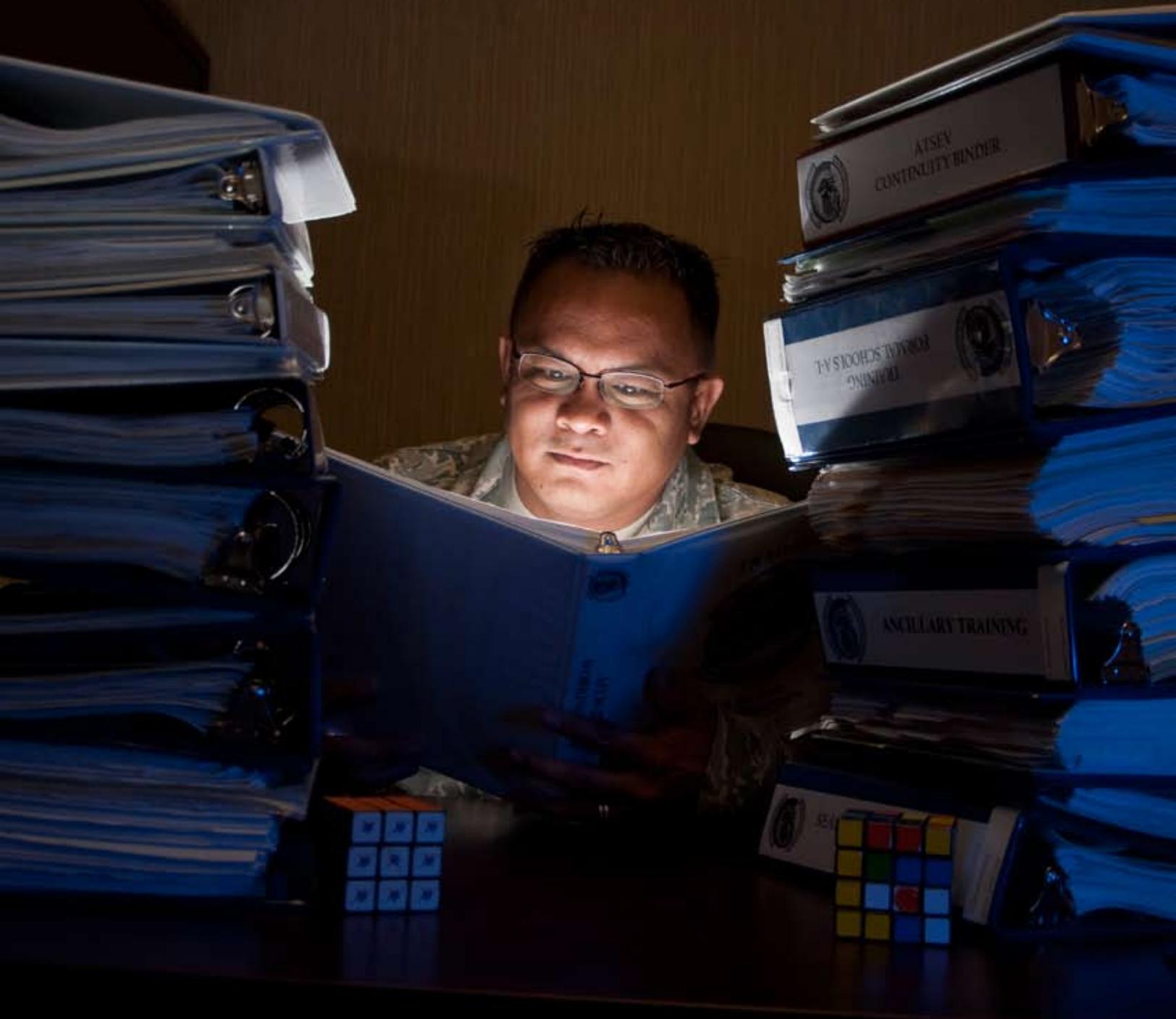


# Pacific Crossings

January 2010

The Official Newsletter of the 624th Regional Support Group



## MASTER PROBLEM SOLVER

48 APS training manager receives PEP to master sergeant

*see page 3*

# Enlisted Perspective

## Airmen downrange doing a phenomenal job

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force  
James A. Roy

During the Thanksgiving holiday and first week in December, I traveled throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and spent time with our Airmen “downrange.” Simply put, our Airmen are doing a phenomenal job across the CENTCOM AOR.

An example is the great work Airmen are performing as Air Advisors in Iraq and Afghanistan. These Airmen train and mentor Iraqi and Afghan forces, helping them build capacity so they’ll be able to take over security for their homeland. This is just one of several examples where Airmen readily accepted nontraditional wartime taskings and contributed even more to the CENTCOM mission.

Across the AOR, Airmen spoke candidly with me about their mission and brought up a variety of concerns in public and private meetings. Two that stand out are ensuring the Air Force is giving the proper amount of training to deploying Airmen and making sure the Air Force is doing the best job possible reintegrating Airmen to their home stations and families when they return from deployment.

I assure you, I take these and other concerns seriously and will work with our Air Force senior leaders and the Air Staff to resolve issues. I also highlight these two issues so our commanders, officers in charge, chiefs, first sergeants and supervisors throughout the chain of command can take notice.

There are no excuses for improper training or lack of care for our Airmen and families.

The Air Force and our sister services will face a changing mission in support of CENTCOM in 2010.

The current plan calls for the removal of all our combat troops from Iraq by the end of 2011.

However, as U.S. forces draw down in Iraq, we face escalating challenges in Afghanistan.

In a recent speech, President Obama announced 30,000 additional U.S.



combat forces will deploy to Afghanistan in 2010. While military planners are still finalizing the structure, there’s no doubt our Air Force will play an even greater role in Afghanistan’s security and capacity to govern and protect itself.

We can expect the expanded mission will bring even more traditional and joint expeditionary taskings.

When CENTCOM calls upon our Air Force to contribute more, I fully trust our Airmen’s readiness to deploy and serve alongside joint and coalition forces. As our Chief of Staff, Gen. Schwartz, said, “the Air Force is ‘all in.’” Whether working in an Air Force, joint or coalition unit, Airmen will superbly accomplish their mission, regardless the task.

Since the era of the Army Air Corps, Airmanship has been essential to U.S. military power. As the airpower arm of the United States, we will continue to provide those irreplaceable Airmanship skills for the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as for future conflicts.

*(Editor’s note: The 624th RSG currently has more than 50 Airmen from the Civil Engineer Squadron in Afghanistan and more than 70 Airmen from our Guam-based Aerial Port Squadron are deploying in support of OEF this month.)*

## Pacific Crossings

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### Action Line

The Action line is your direct line to the 624th Regional Support Group Commander. If you have worked through normal channels and are not satisfied with the answer, the Action Line is your opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the subjects of concern to the 624th RSG community.

You may contact the action line at [624RSG.PA@hickam.af.mil](mailto:624RSG.PA@hickam.af.mil).

Please include your name and phone number in case additional information is required. Action lines of general interest will be published in Pacific Crossings while others will be answered by phone.

### On the Cover

Master Sgt. Peter Rieta, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, training manager, was promoted to Master Sgt. under the Promotion Enhancement Program. He stresses the importance of Professional Military Education and the Community College of the Air Force degree to the Airmen in his unit.

Story on page 3

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith)

# RIETA'S 'PEP' TALK



Master Sgt. Peter Rieta, 48th Aerial Port Squadron training manager, discusses training requirements with Senior Airman Ryan Kanagusuku, one of his Airmen at the 48th APS. Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith

*By Staff Sgt. Erin Smith  
624th Regional Support Group  
Public Affairs*

He has this talent.

It usually takes him about a minute and 20 seconds but he's done it in less than a minute.

Master Sergeant Peter Rieta can solve a Rubik's Cube like no one you've ever seen. The tenacity he uses as his fingers glide and twirl through the combinations of the cube, searching for the answer, is the same he's used to find the answers in his Air Force career.

It's paid off for Sergeant Rieta, who is the training manager for the 48th Aerial Port Squadron. The Guam native aligned all the colors in his Air Force cube and received a promotion to Master Sergeant under the highly selective Promotion Enhancement Program, Oct. 1.

More commonly referred to as 'PEP' promotions, they are for outstanding performers who are blocked for promotion under the unit vacancy program. After being nominated for a PEP promotion, it was Sergeant Rieta's assistance to the Afghan military that put him over the top.

They needed a simple, concise training plan to teach Afghan aerial porters how to run an aerial port operation.

"We were at a complete standstill until Pete sent the training materials," said Maj. John-David Chun, readiness officer for the 48th Aerial Port Squadron who was deployed to Afghanistan to help rebuild the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

"The material wasn't even that complex," said Sergeant Rieta. "It boiled down to the basic programs we use to train non-aerial porters on how to build pallets. We provide training to them regularly but don't go into

too much detail because we don't want to confuse them. We had a very basic training program established and I sent that to Major Chun in Afghanistan."

The impact was significant. Once Sergeant Rieta sent the training materials, the unit in Afghanistan was set in motion and they could start to create the curriculum for the class. Just seven months after the first phone call was made, the first class with 12 Afghan military students commenced.

While this incident was far-reaching, Sergeant Rieta does things like this daily for members of the 48th APS. As the training manager, he makes it his personal mission to know where training resources are and to find the answers to give to members of the squadron. His goal is to teach reservists about things like the importance of professional military

***PEP** continued on page 5*



**Ignacio Campos**  
*Technical Sergeant*  
*44th Aerial Port Squadron*  
*Andersen Air Force Base, Guam*

# Warrior of the Month

**JOB TITLE:** Passenger Service Agent, C - Flight Leader

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** As a flight leader, he is entrusted with the training of his flight in all areas in Passenger Service.

**HOMETOWN:** Chalan Pago, Guam

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT UNIT:** “The family atmosphere that is culturally ingrained in the 44 APS and the guidance I get from my leaders.”

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT JOB:** “Seeing the development made with each member as they mature into responsible and proficient mobile-ready Airmen.”

**SUPERVISOR SAYS:** “Tech. Sgt. Ignacio Campos is one of the finest NCOs assigned to Passenger Service. Tech. Sgt. Campos excels in building trust and promotes a healthy relationship with his own team and other flights. He is very supportive in ensuring that requirements are done every UTA and continuously asks what else? Tech. Sgt. Campos strengthens his expertise in his field by volunteering to come up on his own time for additional training. He truly deserves to be Warrior of the Month.” — Senior Master Sgt. Edith M. Mesa

## Personnel Briefs

### TEEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

If you want your teen to gain valuable leadership experience and an all expense paid trip to the mainland, nominate them for one of three Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits this year. The application deadline is 16 Apr 10. Applications and instructions as well as applications for adult volunteers are located at the following website: [www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeen-Summit](http://www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeen-Summit).

### 2010 AF SERVICES TEEN AVIATION CAMP

The Air Force Services Agency, in conjunction with the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), offers the 11th Air Force Services Teen Aviation Camp from 5-10 Jun 10 at the USAFA in Colorado Springs, CO. The camp is for high school students entering their sophomore or junior year in the fall of 2010

who are interested in aviation, leadership or the USAFA.

Eligible applicants include teen dependents of Active Duty Military assigned to or living on an Air Force Base, AF Retired Military, AF Civilian Employees, or Air National Guard or AF Reserve activated within the last 12 months. Teens who participated in the 2009 camp are not eligible to apply this year.

Selected participants will arrive into Colorado Springs on Saturday, 5 Jun 10 and depart on Thursday morning, 10 Jun 10. All lodging, meals and program costs will be centrally funded at no cost to participants. Airline or POV travel costs to Colorado Springs are the responsibility of the participant.

Interested AF Reserve teens should complete the attached electronic nomination form and familiarization exam and submit the package electronically to Ms. Stacey Young ([stacey.young@us.af.mil](mailto:stacey.young@us.af.mil)) and Ms. Brandi Mullins ([brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil))

mil) NLT 12 Mar 10. Final selections for the 36 spaces will be announced by the AF Services Agency by 23 Apr 10. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Stacey Young at DSN 497-0971 or Ms. Brandi Mullins at DSN 497-2090.

### MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT HOURS

Monday through Friday  
 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### DRILL WEEKENDS

Saturday:  
 Open hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Closed for in-processing - 7-10 a.m.  
 Sunday:  
 Open hours: 7 a.m.- 1 p.m.  
 2:30 - 4 p.m.  
 Closed for training: 1-2:30 p.m.

If an ID card is required, please call before coming to MPF to check if DEERS is up and running.

# AF referral program helps recruiters, Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Erin Smith  
624th Regional Support Group  
Public Affairs

The Air Force not only encourages Airmen to take charge of their careers, but also allows them to have some say in whom they work next to. The Air Force Reserve's Get 1 Now Program is a tool designed to give recruiters positive leads and help grace the Air Force with its newest members.

"People listen to a friend before a recruiter. This program is the top lead source for recruiters as far as leads to accessions," said Senior Master Sgt. James Flamio, 624th RSG Recruiter. "It also gives unit members the excellent opportunity to pick who works next to them."

Those willing to participate in the program aren't just helping recruiters, they'll receive benefits as well. In addition to hand picking their co-workers, successful participants also earn prizes. If an Airman directs someone to a recruiter, it's considered a referral. If the referral enlists within a 2-year period, the referring Airman gets to choose a prize. The prizes include cameras, video cameras, handheld DVD players and even a laptop computer.

Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz, 624th Regional Support Group superintendent of military personnel recently earned the FY '09 Top Accessions Award for helping recruit six members who enlisted between Oct. 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009, all will be joining the 624th RSG.

In addition to six different prizes, she also earned a leather bomber jacket and a trip to the annual recruiters conference, which she compared to the 'Academy Awards for recruiters.' Furthermore, Sgt. Seitz is awaiting an incentive flight in the



Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz with her Get 1 Now award.  
(Photo by Master Sgt. Daniel Nathaniel)

aircraft of her choice, an F-16.

"I was surprised," she said. "I didn't think I would win. Last year, the winner's accessions were in the double digits."

Now that she has experienced and seen the benefits of the program, she encourages Reservists to sign up.

"All you have to do is encourage people to come into the Reserves," she said. "Answer their questions and tell them what we do here in the Reserves. You can also encourage prior service people to come in too, or at least take a look at what the Reserve offers and how they could finish their years out."

It seems a win-win situation. The recruit gets something out of the military and the Airman gets the prize.

For more information on the program, visit the Get 1 Now website at <http://www.get1now.us> or call 877-786-2372.

## PEP continued from page 3

education and the Community College of the Air Force. He wants to be the guy with the answers.

"It doesn't benefit me," he said, "it benefits them. It took me forever to get my 5-level. Now, I know exactly how to get it and give people the road map to get it sooner."

When he stresses the importance of PME and the CCAF degree, he is practicing what he preaches. Despite it taking him a while to earn his 5-level degree, he has made up for lost time and has already completed two CCAF degrees and has a 7-level in two Air Force Specialty Codes, aerial porter and training manager. In addition to this, he has already completed all the necessary PME for the rest of his Air Force career. This includes the Senior NCO Academy.

"Now that I've finished it all, I can tell my guys what it's like and encourage them to enroll in the courses," he said.

He has worked ahead so he can help prepare his fellow squadron members for PME.

"Education is important," he said. "Whenever I hear a unit chief talk, he always says, 'do your PME.' Whenever I hear a command chief talk, he always says, 'do your PME and get your CCAF.'"

As for his recent promotion, which puts him well on his way to joining the chiefs he hears stress the importance of education, he said that it hasn't sunk in yet.

"When I was promoted, a lot of good words were said to me like, 'long-awaited,' 'well-deserved,' and 'thank you for your hard work,'" he said. "Now, I have to live up to that. I feel



Master Sgt. Peter Rieta skillfully solves a Rubik's Cube. He first solved the blue portion of the puzzle, then the other colors. This time, he solved the puzzle in 1:30.  
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith)

privileged to have good leadership, good mentoring. I can't do things like this myself. My supervisors, my officers, my entire unit and my group made this happen. You can't be a one-man team. Your strengths are with your unit, the people around you."



# Our Newest Chief

Lt. Col. Randall Honke, 48th Aerial Port Squadron commander and Chief Master Sgt. Leland How, chief enlisted manager, “tack” chief stripes onto operations superintendent Mark Hatori, January 9. The new chief oversees all operations in the 2T2 Air Transportation career field and is supervisor to six Senior Master Sergeants who in turn oversee approximately 100 airmen.

## DECEMBER/JANUARY PROMOTIONS

### MASTER SERGEANT

Andrew Bainco  
Rusty Caringer

### TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Albert Keomaka  
Edwin Lovalhathi  
George Repollo  
Jeremy Rhode  
Julia Rosales  
Christopher Russo

### STAFF SERGEANT

Samuel Gainey  
Eric Ignacio  
Rolando Jose  
Gena Remigio  
Alex Santiago  
Benjamin Tedpahogo

### SENIOR AIRMAN

Noli Pegarido  
Darren Precht

# UTA Schedule

## Hickam

February 20-21  
March 6-7  
April 10-11  
May 1-2

## Andersen

February 27-28  
March 20-21  
April 24-25  
May 22-23



To present the proper military image, attache cases, gym bags and backpacks will be carried in the left hand, on left shoulder, or both shoulders (not to interfere with rendering the proper salute). Attache cases: black only; Gym bags: black or dark blue; Backpacks: Only solid-color black backpacks may be worn with blue uniform combinations; solid-color black, olive drab, or woodland camouflage are the only colors authorized with the BDU.

- AFI 36-2903