

Wing Notes

101 Days of Summer

May 26 marks the official start of the "101 Critical Days of Summer," a time of increased risk of accidents, injuries and possible death, both on and off duty. Areas of particular concern are heat-related effects, highway safety, seatbelt usage, driving or boating under the influence of alcohol, water sports, motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle operations, and those risks unique to your missions and local environment. You can protect yourself, your family and your friends by being aware of those risks and taking precautions to avoid disaster. Last year, Air Force Reserve Command sustained one off-duty fatality during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Inventing flight July 3-20, 2003

The Wright brothers' hometown will buzz with excitement during the nation's premier summertime centennial of flight event - Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration, July 3-20, 2003. There will be something for everyone to enjoy during this rich collection of events and attractions.

Deeds Point, a 12-acre park overlooking the City of Dayton's downtown landscape at the Great Miami River, will be the convening site for much of the attractions. This site is being called "Celebration Central" and serves as the gateway to all Inventing Flight activities.

Although the hub of activity will be based at Celebration Central, activities will also radiate to a series of satellite locations and citywide events, conventions and ongoing exhibits that will all be a part of the Inventing Flight experience.

For more information concerning Inventing Flight go to their web site: www.inventingflight.com

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Serving with Honor

by SSgt. Charlie Miller
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Perhaps the highest profile duty in the Air Force. It's not an easy duty to pull, but quite rewarding in its own unique way. Demanding perfection from start to finish. Living under a microscope while wearing the Air Force ceremonial uniform isn't easy.

What is this high profile position? The Honor Guard.

One such person is Tech. Sgt. Mark Lyle, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, mental health technician as a reservist, on active duty with the Wright-Patterson AFB Honor Guard.

Recently Tech. Sgt. Lyle went to Michigan for a funeral of an active duty para-rescueman who perished in a helicopter crash in Kuwait. Senior Airman Jason T. Plite was his name from Lansing, Mich. He was a young man, a senior airman, just 21-years-old.

"This funeral detail was different with all the media being there. And with him being so young there was a very, very large funeral procession," said Lyle.

"There were eight police cars and four police motorcycles in the procession from the local government," Lyle added.

The Honor Guard from Wright-Patt helped comprise a 20-person honors funeral with a colors team, a firing party giving a 21-gun salute, pallbearers and a bugler. There was also a brigadier general present, Lyle said. Lyle served as a pall-bearer.

Tech. Sgt. Lyle has served over 80 funerals, seven of which were for active

duty members.

All active duty honors ceremonies have 20-person teams while a retiree will have a ten-person team and a veteran, regardless of how much time they may have served, and in some cases it's less than two years, will have a 2-person team for the honors ceremony.

"I can't tell you how much I enjoy what I do with the Honor Guard. So many have fought in the past and present so we can live the way we do and enjoy our lifestyles," said Lyle. "Some were over there doing their job while in harms way, fighting to protect what we all believe

in. I'm actually not in harms way but I'll stop whatever I'm doing to pay them honor."

"I volunteered for this duty with the honor guard and plan to stay as long as they'll have me," said Lyle. "It's important to honor those who served. It's the least I can do and I'm glad to be able to participate in their honors ceremony," Lyle stated.

Wright-Patterson's Honor Guard has participated in over 1,400 ceremonies each year and logged more than 230,000 miles throughout a six state area according to Master Sgt. Homer Carter, Honor Guard ARC Program Manager.

With the advancing age of WW II veterans, the honor guard is kept busy. Lyle averages about four funerals a week.

"It's extremely important that we have guard and reserve honor guard members to augment the active duty honor guard members," Lyle concluded.

