

# CAREER FOCUS

## Honor Guard

BY MASTER SGT.  
DAVID HALVORSON  
TEAM KIRTLAND career assistance advisor

Something we hear quite often is that the Air Force is a family. Being part of a family entails taking on additional roles to help ensure the family needs are met. As children, we often disliked the additional chores doled out by our parents, but we did them for the good of the family and because we were told to do those chores. As a result, we are now more responsible adults. Over time, we made the difficult transition into adulthood and we found ourselves "becoming our parents," something we always swore to avoid in the name of freethinking. Thankfully, we succumbed to the influence of good citizenship at the direction of those who knew what was best.

Now we are part of another family, the Air Force family, and in many ways the same expectations to contribute to the collective cause we now refer to as "mission." There are, of course, many ways of contributing, but one I am particularly fond of is service in the honor guard. In my 20-plus years I've yet to meet anyone who could say they're not a better person for having performed this honorable duty. For many years, I've worked closely with members of the honor guard at Kirtland AFB, and I always sense an intense pride among their ranks as they speak of

their role in representing our service and our country. It can't be faked, and it can't be bought. It's a feeling that is earned through service in a most honorable fashion.

You see them everywhere—luncheons, banquets, parades, change of command ceremonies, retirements and, of course, military funerals. They're sharp, motivated individuals, precise in bearing and deed—and they are the proud members of the Kirtland AFB Honor Guard.

Throughout my career, I have attended many funerals and memorials for active duty and retired veterans, and never fail to get choked up as the detail presents the U. S. flag to the family on behalf of the president of the United States. A tribute to devoted service to our nation, each funeral was distinguished, each telling a life story full and honorable. I know without a shred of doubt that each family member was touched by the symbolism and tradition brought to the occasion by the presence of the honor guard. As a team member, you become for the duration of that funeral a member of their extended family, witnessing this last rite and representing the U.S. military to friends and next of kin. It is indeed humbling, and no one walks away without a deeper understanding of what it means to be American.

Not everyone can contribute to the Air Force family by serving on the honor guard—work schedules, deployments, family and



Master Sgt. David Halvorson

school commitments, and many other demands stretch busy schedules beyond belief. But if your schedule allows for it, talk to your supervisor about trying out for the team. The Kirtland AFB Honor Guard is manned entirely by volunteers, primarily in grades E-1 thru E-6 and O-1 thru O-3, and team members come from across the installation. It's a challenging, demanding and highly rewarding duty, and they're always looking for sharp troops. It's not for everyone. But for officer and enlisted alike, it's a duty you should sample and be a part of at least once in your career. Come on, you're among family.

For information about the TEAM KIRTLAND honor guard mission, contact Master Sgt. David McKay at 846-1804.



**Col. Henry L. Andrews, Jr.**  
377th Air Base Wing  
commander

**Deborah Mercurio**  
377th Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs director

**Terry E. Walker**  
chief, Internal Information

**Staff Sgt. Markus M. Maier**  
editor. 846-4236

**Senior Airman Erin L. Smith**  
assistant editor, 846-7019

**Jennifer E. West**  
staff writer, 846-4235

**Clover B. Hatcher**  
photojournalist  
846-5991

**Nucleus is on the Web**  
at [www.kirtland.af.mil](http://www.kirtland.af.mil)

**E-mail articles only**  
to 377ABW.NUCLEUS  
@kirtland.af.mil,  
call 846-4236.

**Editorial deadline**  
9 a.m. the Friday before  
publication. Deadlines  
change for holidays.

**Advertising deadlines**  
**Classified:**  
Tuesday, noon, 892-9400,  
observerclass@attglobal.net

**Display:**  
Friday, 5 p.m., 892-9400,  
observerads@attglobal.net

**Advertising and Production**  
**Robert Lambert**  
advertising manager

**Gina Martinez**  
**Margaret Fensterer**  
production

**Lana Johnson**  
display advertising  
representative

**Kristie Erdmann**  
automobile display  
advertising representative

**Susan Saunier**  
accounting

**Yvonne Korotky**  
classified representative

The Kirtland AFB Nucleus is published by "The Observer," a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 377th Air Base Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of Nucleus are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or "The Observer," of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit or merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

## COMMAND CHIEF'S CHOICE



**Tech. Sgt. Eric Smith** is the flight chief for the First Term Airman Center and is assigned to 377th Mission Support Squadron. His responsibilities are to ensure the smooth operation of the First Term Airmen Center and to transition Airmen from the technical training environment to become valuable TEAM KIRTLAND members.

**What do you like best about this assignment?** The city of Albuquerque has a lot to offer and

the weather is great compared to my previous assignment at Minot AFB.

**What is the most memorable event in your Air Force career?** Being selected to run the First Term Airman Center. It has shown me there is so much more to the Air Force than just my career field.

**What will you take away from this assignment?** How great the people are. The people you work with make or break each as-

signment.

**What person do you consider a great influence in your life?** My father instilled in me the work ethic and dedication to do my best.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Retired from the Air Force, teaching fifth grade history.

**What aspect of your life do you consider most important?** My family—everyone needs a strong foundation to build success upon.

# The truth behind wing goal days

BY 2ND LT. ROSE RICHESON

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

With two potential wing goal days already behind us, the 377th Air Base Wing now needs to concentrate on obtaining that higher level of performance so everyone can appreciate the remaining six goal days in 2005.

The main focus of a Wing Goal Day Program will be to enhance the 377th Air Base Wing mission, based on a similar effort at Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command. This program is a great opportunity for military and civilian government employees to be recognized and rewarded for a job well done.

If anyone was wondering just what happened to the last two wing goal days, the following metrics associated with wing goal days may answer those questions.

Four aspects of performance are monitored in order to decide if a three-day holiday weekend could turn into a four-day vacation. Those four aspects include:

- Mission Performance: Accomplishment of the 377th Air Base Wing mission; providing world-class munitions maintenance, readiness and support to base operations

- Internal Management: management of the 377th Air Base Wing staff and group commander/unit commander taskings

- Professional Conduct: compliance with Air Force instructions, local policies and any special interest item

- Fitness: meeting the Air Force chief of staff's Fit to Fight Policy

While driving on and off Kirtland AFB, it is hard to miss the DUI counter inside the main gates. By plac-

ing the counter in such a highly visible location, everyone should get the impression that driving under the influence citations weigh heavily on the decision to make or break a wing goal day.

After some deliberation, the metric definition for DUIs was agreed upon under such principles that the unit with the first DUI will not take a goal day for the reported period; however, the rest of the wing takes a goal day, if all other criteria is met. If two or more DUIs are reported, the entire wing will not take a goal day for the reported period.

Other metric definitions and further information on the Wing Goal Days Program can be found by going online to the Kirtland AFB extranet and clicking on 'Goal Days Information' (found on the left column of the extranet homepage).

When a metric goal is achieved, points will be earned. Presently, the wing must earn 80 percent of the available points and not fail the DUI criteria to

get a goal day.

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, is at liberty to authorize non-chargeable leave (a pass) to military members when the wing earns a goal day. "Goal days will be earned when specific goals are met, exceeded or substantial progress has been made, thus rewarding our hard workers with the time off they deserve," Colonel Andrews said.

The AFMC commander is pursuing a change to Air Force regulations to allow the same goal day leave for civilians; however, until that guidance is changed, civilians will be encouraged to use annual leave or compensatory leave time earned (liberal leave) during goal days, Colonel Andrews stated in his recent 377 Air Base Wing Goal Day Program letter to all 377th Air Base Wing personnel.

---

"Goal Days will be earned when specific goals are met, exceeded or substantial progress has been made, thus rewarding our hard workers with the time off they deserve,"

*Col. Hank Andrews*  
377th Air Base Wing commander

---

# FORUM

[kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil), 846-4240

## Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

## Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691

CE Help Desk, 846-8222

Commissary, 846-9586

Computer help, 846-5926

Energy wasting, 846-4633

Exchange Service, 266-9887

Family Services, 846-0741

Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639

Law Enforcement, 846-7926

Legal Services, 846-4217

Medical Clinic, 846-3406

Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117