

CAREER FOCUS

Airmen – You have a role in your future !

BY MASTER SGT.

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Although the Air Force is conducting force shaping measures, Airmen are learning that they remain in control of their futures, even in over-manned career fields. There are choices for those whose reenlistments are coming up soon: retrain, go Guard or Reserve, go Army with Operation Blue-to-Green (or B2G), or elect to separate.

Any Airman in an over-manned career field needs to start looking at options now, retraining being a first consideration. Airmen who think they're safe and won't be impacted by force shaping will have it hardest, because they haven't planned for their future.

According to an Air Force Personnel Center release, at a recent career assistance advisor conference Master Sgt. Dee Wolfe, AFPC personnel actions noncommissioned officer in charge, said there are 29 over-manned career fields, and out of those, 1,259 first-term Airmen have not received a ca-

reer job reservation. Airmen will not be allowed to reenlist without a CJR unless they have been selected for special duty or retraining, she said.

Therefore, members in over-manned Air Force specialties applying for special duty are safe only for the time they serve that special duty because they still hold the same AFSC, according to Staff Sgt. Clinton Minor, Retraining NCOIC.

These choices are a part of the planning process for those who know they need to retrain. For those who choose not to plan, the Air Force will give them two choices: retrain into what the Air Force needs or separate.

When it comes to new opportunities, there are many choices for Airmen. Most retrain into security forces and aircraft maintenance, but there are many more under-manned fields such as logistics planners, linguists and air traffic controllers. Looking for a different kind of challenge? Why not look into enlisted aircrew positions, such as boom operator, flight engineer, loadmaster and flight attendant. You may also consider a



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position in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

The bottom line is this: Airmen, you have control over your careers now, as long as you start planning as soon as you are notified. Whatever you decide, it's best to take control of those things within your reach. Otherwise, the decisions that outline your future will be left to others, and your goals and dreams will be unnoticed in the process.



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COMMAND CHIEF'S CHOICE



Tech. Sgt. Michelle D. Brock is an Education and Training manager for the 377th Medical Group. Her responsibilities are to ensure Airmen receive all training necessary to carry out the Air Force's mission. This includes on-the-job training, upgrade training and any other specialized training.

What do you like best about this assignment? The people, the weather and my church family at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

What is the most memorable event in your Air Force career? So far, I have really had a blessed career thanks to great mentors who took the time to help develop me, so I have quite a few great memories. However, the most memorable are meeting my husband, Tech. Sgt. Shawn Brock, giving birth to my three beautiful children and receiving the Academic Achievement Award and Distinguished Graduate Award from the Kirtland NCO Academy.

What will take you away from this assignment? A promotion to master sergeant.

What are your hobbies? When I get some free time from work and caring for my family, reading and watching (the television program) C.S. I.

What person do you consider a great influence in your life? My grandmother. She is such a gracious person. Whenever I need motivation, she is there, believing in me and encouraging me to keep trying.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? A chief master sergeant in the United States Air Force.

What aspect of your life do you consider most important? My faith, which is the driving force behind me making it through the tough times in my personal life and in my Air Force career.

What is your main goal in life? To be the best wife, mother, and Airman possible. To never stop trying.

Favorite movie? City of Angels.

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FORUM

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Misrepresented prices

This morning on my way into work, I stopped at the base McDonald's restaurant drive-up window. After placing my order and driving around to pay for it, I questioned the person collecting as to why she was asking for more than what my order was. Her response was that they had raised the prices and hadn't gotten around to changing the posted prices yet. I feel it is totally inappropriate to be charging a higher price than the posted price with hopes that most customers will not notice the difference.

As you already know, our friends at McDonald's failed to update the menu board to reflect the recent price increase of 10 cents on all breakfast menu items. Hence, the higher price should not have been charged. McDonald's management has taken action to insure that we do not charge a higher price than posted and has stressed to all employees the importance of providing high-quality, responsive customer service.

Embarrassed at gas station

Today at the AAFES gas station, I was harassed and embarrassed while pumping gas for having a Sandia Labs sticker. I told the cashier I have a military ex-spouse ID card with privileges, which I have had since 1959. She refused to listen and demanded I stop pumping and show her my card. After I showed her my card, she said OK but



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377th Air Base Wing commander

then questioned me as to why I didn't have a base sticker—which I thought was none of her business—told her I have ex-spouse privileges, I am retired Air Force civilian and now am a Sandia Labs employee. Her excuse for this was that some people come who are not authorized. When I told her I had a card, I feel that should have been sufficient until I was finished pumping my gas. By the way, on weekends if I come on base, I show my dependent card at the gate with my Sandia Lab sticker because

I am not coming on base as a Sandian but to go to the BX or commissary.

Another thing too, when I get new prescriptions in the main hospital pharmacy, I get harassed because they don't want to enter my Social Security number instead of my ex-spouse's, but the rules were made by the hospital—not me. When I returned several times for my prescriptions, I was told they hadn't filled it because it needs to be under his Social Security. Last time it happened, I convinced them to use my number because that is hospital policy but insisted on entering my ex-spouse's too.

We are very happy to have you as a customer at our car care center and strive to give exceptional customer service. This service, however, includes preserving your benefits provided by AAFES. As a result, our cashiers periodically verify that those pumping gas are authorized to do so. This is why they asked for identification.

Regarding picking up prescriptions, once you presented your valid identification, we should have acknowledged you as an authorized user and filled your order. We will reemphasize this obvious point in our customer service training to ensure you and all other beneficiaries are properly served.

In both of these cases, please know that AAFES store managers and medical group patient advocates are always available to you and ready to help.

Traffic hazard

I just read the article in today's Nucleus titled "Traffic is a hazard firefighters shouldn't have to face".

It reminded me that twice this week I have almost been hit by traffic enter-

ing San Mateo Boulevard from an unpaved area that personnel are using as a parking area. The vehicles in this area, are parked in such a way that there are multiple blind spots due to other vehicles parked in the area. There aren't any stop signs, so the vehicles enter the roadway without stopping.

The reason I bring this up is that the new fire station also uses this road to leave the fire station. Because the fire trucks might be traveling at a greater rate of speed that I do, the potential for an accident, I think, is something that you may wish to explore. The area is just north of the building there with the paved parking lot (just north of the old fire station).

As it turns out, the area you described is not a designated parking area. We posted "No Parking" signs on Oct. 1. Our 377th Security Forces Squadron will give warnings to motorists for a week. After that, we'll issue citations for illegal parking. We've let the facility managers in the surrounding facilities know about this and asked for their help in notifying their members. Thank you for your interest in the safety of personnel driving and walking on Kirtland.

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.