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News  
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Notes  
Public Affairs  
Alumni  
Association™
January 2008

*“Best of The Best” O’Brien,  
Receives Award At Aviano*

**San Antonio Membership Meeting Shaping-Up**

Our 15th Annual Membership Meeting, May 15-17, AFPAAA will return to San Antonio, the site of the association’s first and ninth meetings in 1994 and 2002.

Our headquarters will be the LaQuinta Convention Center Inn & Suites, 303 Blum, directly across from the Marriott Rivercenter and the famed Riverwalk, in the heart of San Antonio.

An interesting agenda is planned. Something new is being offered this year to kick off the meeting – a golf tournament on Thursday morning, May 15th, for those who want to come in early and get in a round with fellow members. Those interested, should contact Larry Farlow at: [golfhappy17@gmail.com](mailto:golfhappy17@gmail.com)

The traditional welcoming reception will be Thursday evening. On Friday, May 16th, we will visit Randolph AFB in the morning for briefings about the 12th Flying Training Wing, the only unit in the Air Force conducting both pilot instructor training and combat

systems officer training, and other areas of interest.

After the President’s Luncheon, we will move on to the Center for the Intrepid, the world’s most technologically advanced rehabilitation center for military amputees and burn victims. This 65,000 square foot facility, adjacent to Brooke Army Medical Center, was privately funded and is the single largest private contribution to our wounded warriors in the history of our country.

Friday night, an optional dinner at “The Republic of Texas” followed by a champagne & dessert boat ride is planned.

Saturday morning, May 17th, there will be guest speakers, followed by the annual update from SAF/PA. Our Annual Membership Meeting will be in the afternoon.

Our menu for the Saturday evening banquet includes some Texas favorites – a choice of breast of chicken

with a roasted poblano cream sauce or mesquite smoked brisket and beef sausage with a homemade Jack Daniels BBQ sauce.

The registration price structure will be the same as it was last year. The registration form will be available at [afpaaa.org](http://afpaaa.org) after the first of the year and in the April News & Notes.

It is not too early to make room reservations. LaQuinta has given us the military per diem rate of \$112 per night – a really good deal for a Riverwalk hotel at that time of year. Call 1-800-531-5900 and use the discount code “Air Force Public Affairs” (sorry, our discounted rate is not available through on line registration). The discount rate is available for 3 days prior to and 3 days after our meeting, if you would like to spend some extra time in San Antonio.

If you problems with your La Quinta hotel reservation, let Linda Arnold know at: [arnold777@satx.rr.com](mailto:arnold777@satx.rr.com)

Technical Sergeant Tara A. O’Brien, NCOIC of the News Department, Detachment 8, Air Force News Agency, Aviano AB, Italy, was presented the 2006 AFPAAA sponsored “Best of the Best” trophy and \$1000 check by Detachment Superintendent, SMSgt Robert E. Cole.

“When I was presented the award,” TSgt O’Brien said, “I started receiving questions from the younger Airmen in my unit about it and other recognition programs; they were suddenly interested. That makes me very proud of my accomplishments in a whole new way. Not so much because I won something . . . but rather because it makes me feel that I’m somehow contributing to the motivation of those working for me. It’s a fabulous domino effect and I’m thrilled to be a part of it.”

She is 30 credits away from a Bachelor’s degree in History and she enjoys traveling, teaching scuba diving, and spends the rest of her time wandering through the Alps with a backpack and hiking boots.

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# Jerry Dalton Gets PRSA's Top Award; 2007 Golden Anvil Presented At Philly Conference

Jerry Dalton, a Lifetime Founder of AFPAAA, was presented the Public Relations Society of America's top award, the Golden Anvil, for a lifetime of accomplishments and service in the field of public relations. The presentation was made in October at PRSA's 2007 International Conference in Philadelphia.

"It is an honor to present the Gold Anvil Award to a true pioneer in public relations," said PRSA Chair and CEO Rhoda Weiss, APR, Fellow PRSA.

"Jerry's accomplishments over the years have impacted thousands of public relations professionals and students in the government, military and private sectors. He is deeply committed to the profession and has devoted many years to serving PRSA and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

His 30-year career in Air Force Public Affairs ended in 1980 when he retired after five years in the SAF/PA Director's post. He was the first career PA to hold that position.

Subsequently he had a 15 year career in corporate communication positions with Electronic Data Systems, The LTV Corporation, and Vought Aircraft. That was followed by three years as an independent consultant.

"Dalton has distinguished himself among public relations practitioners for five decades," said PRSA Individual Awards Subcommittee Chair Gail F. Baker, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA.

"From his selection as the first Air Force career public affairs officer promoted to general officer, to his election as president of PRSA, Dalton's career represents a lifetime of exemplary achievement.



His selection as PRSA's 2007 Gold Anvil recipient is a befitting acknowledgment of his outstanding individual accomplishments."

Jerry joined PRSA in 1976 and was awarded his Accreditation in Public Relations the following year.

Known for an inclusive, collaborative nature and crisis management skills, he was elected national PRSA president in 1990.

"It's very important for people in any profession to give back to the profession," Jerry said when asked what advice he offers young people who are just beginning their careers.

"One way you can do that is through organizations like PRSA and PRSSA. It should be more than a monetary commitment. It means getting and staying involved as a volunteer to advance the profession and the professional."

When he was presented the Golden Anvil Award, Jerry said, "I am terribly thrilled and humbled to receive an honor that has been reserved for the past greats in this profession. I'm joining a very select group, and I could not be more pleased."

## Lord Guard & Guide

### Wayne Bryant

Wayne Bryant, who was vacationing in Europe, died of an apparent heart attack October 7. He was 59. At the time of his death he was the Public Affairs planner for the 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base.

He was born in Niagara Falls, New York, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1967. Among his assignments were Vietnam, Germany, and a number of assignments in the United States. He retired in 1987 as a Master Sergeant. He then began his Civil Service career.

Wayne is survived by his wife Sandra; his children; Donna Linares, Jason, Amanda and Nicholas; seven grandchildren; his mother, Louise Channing, and his sister, Anita Henry.

### Albin J. Derecki

Al Derecki, who managed the Pentagon studio for the Secretary of Defense, died in his sleep November 18 at his Fort Washington, Maryland home. He was 82.

He was born in Chicago and enlisted in the Navy in 1943. After his discharge in 1946, he joined the Army Air Forces and served in the Air Force until his retirement in 1966. His second retirement, from the Department of Defense, was in 1989.

Al is survived by his wife of 27 years, Mary F. D'Angelo of Fort Washington.

## Solemnity, Tradition Preserved As Funeral Details Reduced

More retiree funerals than ever, personnel cuts, and a high operations tempo have changed the way Air Force honor guards perform retiree funerals.

Now, instead of ten people, the funeral detail has seven people who serve as pall bearers, flag folders, flag presenter, bugler, spare, and firing party.

"The main concern people had in the change of the funeral procedures was that we wouldn't be keeping with past traditions," said Staff Sgt. David Little, U.S. Air Force Honor Guard course supervisor for base honor guards.

There are three major differences with the detail of seven: the noncommissioned officer in charge of pall bearers also is the NCO in charge of the funeral; the firing party has been reduced to three; and a spare position has been added.

The NCO of pallbearers now ensures the casket and flag are properly placed in the hearse; then joins the pallbearers and call commands to carry the casket to the gravesite, and presents the flag to the family. A video of the new funeral procedure is available on the Air Force Honor Guard Web site.

"Another concern we've heard is that people think we're taking away the '21-gun salute' by having only three people fire," said Sergeant Little. That is not true, a 21-gun salute was never done during military funeral honors. Three volleys in unison are fired. Only the president receives a 21-gun salute, and only the Navy and Army have ever performed this.

The reaction to the changes has been positive according to Sergeant Little. Bases have been having a hard time supporting the 10-person funeral, this eases the personnel strain.

## From The President's Pen



*Recognizing an escalating crisis and taking decisive action is the true mark of leadership in any organization. Such was the case when a focused initiative was executed within AFPAAA to reverse the threatening decline in Association membership.*

*Success for this project demanded a creative approach combined with total involvement and commitment. Association leaders met this threshold. Jim Hart created the Member Get a Member (MGM) program asking each member to recruit a new member. Free one-year memberships were provided for all active duty Public Affairs professionals. Neil Buttimer and Joe Purka worked with Jim to put together an action plan for the initiative while John Terino and John Gura provided technical assistance including creation of a website link. Past Presidents and Chairmen Linda Arnold and Mike McRaney signed a letter sent to all AFPAAA members soliciting their support.*

*But the most significant component was a long-sought breakthrough with SAF/PA. Colonel Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, agreed to forward an e-mail to Air Force Public Affairs professionals proclaiming the many AFPAAA activities and goals. This correspondence generated an immediate response.*

*Results of these varied endeavors have been gratifying with dozens of new members joining the roles and the number continues to grow. The Board applauds all participants in this fervent effort to increase Association membership. It's essential for each of us to devote our efforts in support of this ongoing project. Further information is available at the Association website link: <http://www.afpaaa.org/join.html>*

*More good news: The Endowment Fund continues to advance toward its \$300,000 goal. Leading the charge is the popular Centurion Fund where members contribute \$100.00 each year to the Fund. Adding to the fervor for this contribution source is the drawing of a Centurion's name at the annual meeting to receive a full refund of their annual meeting registration fee.*

*Enthusiasm remains strong for the 2008 AFPAAA Annual Conference in San Antonio May 15-17. The local planning group is putting the final touches on a productive and dazzling itinerary complete with more than a few surprises. Be sure to submit your registration promptly and join us for this exciting event.*

— *Pete Peterson*



# Separated Member Gets Job Through AFPAAA Network

Mike Nachshen separated from Air Force Public Affairs in September 2007, today

he works for Raytheon, and he credits AFPAAA with helping him land the job.

“When I made the decision to separate, one of the first things I did was fish out my copy of

the AFPAAA directory,” Mike said. “I contacted a number of members — most of whom were extremely willing to help, despite the fact they didn’t know me. I think the beauty of this organization is that there is this long, unbroken chain of PAs, so at most, you have one degree of separation between those who have been retired a while, and ‘newbies’ like me.”

## 82 Take Advantage Of Free One-Year Trial

There may be no “free lunch,” but a free Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association trial membership is available. Active duty, reserve, and

guard civilians and military serving in Public Affairs, Broadcasting, and Bands, who are not already members of AFPAAA can get the

membership, which is good through December 2008, by going to [afpaaa.org](http://afpaaa.org) Below are the 82 people who have taken advantage of the offer.

**Lt Col Joe Allegretti**  
*Air Force Materiel Command/PA*  
**Lt Col Donald Arias**  
*1st Air Force*  
**Capt Sara Banda**  
*National Media Outreach*  
**Colonel Patrick Barnes**  
*OSD Public Affairs*  
**Major Kristi Beckman**  
*ACC/PA*  
**Major LeWonnice Belcher**  
*NGB Public Affairs*  
**Jennifer Bentley**  
*SAF/PA*  
**Philip Berube**  
*Air University*  
**MSgt Robert ‘Bobby’ Bleir,**  
*Defense Information School*  
**Lt Col Gregg C. Bottemiller**  
*HQ Air University*  
**SSgt Donald Branum**  
*50th Space Wing*  
**MSgt Dennis Brewer**  
*352nd Special Operations Group/PA*  
**Mr. Michael T. Briggs**  
*AETC/PA*  
**Lt Tania Bryan**  
*311th HSW/PA*  
**Major Aaron Burgstein**  
*Naval War College*  
**Michelle Clougher**  
*HQ ACC/PA*  
**Lt Ashley Conner**  
*Influence Operations Instructor*  
**A1C Melissa Copeland**  
*355th Fighter Wing/PA*  
**Major Thomas Crosson**  
*ACC/PA*  
**SSgt Heidi Davis**  
*1st FW/PA*  
**TSgt John T. Davis II**  
*Band of the West*  
**Colonel Thomas Deall**  
*Public Affairs Director HQ Air Force Reserve Command*  
**Cheri L. Dedrick**  
*17th Training Wing/PA*  
**Robin DeMark**  
*4th FW/PA*  
**SRA Chase Skyl DeMayo**  
*1st FW/PA*  
**TSgt Michael Dorsey**  
*SAF/PAC*  
**Colonel Clifton Douglas**  
*Commander AFNEWS*

**Major John A. Eloff**  
*9th AF/USCENTAF/PA*  
**Lt Naomi Evangelista**  
*12th Flying Wing/PA*  
**Colonel Josie Fernandez**  
*CJCS/PA*  
**SRA Jocelyn Ford**  
*92nd ARW/PA*  
*Ron Fry*  
*HQ AFMC/PA*  
**Captain Mark D. Gibson**  
*USCENTCOM 9th AF*  
**TSgt Michael B. Hammond**  
*HQ AETC/PA*  
**MSgt Jon Hanson**  
*AETC/PA*  
**MSgt Jerry Harlan**  
*1st AF (AFNORTH)*  
**Capt Dustin Hart**  
*23rd Wing*  
**Lt Frank Hartnett**  
*2nd Bomb Wing/PA*  
**SSgt Henry L. Hoegen, Jr.,**  
*20th FW*  
**MSgt Claudette Hutchinson**  
*NORAD & NORTHCOM/PA*  
**TSgt Kerry Jackson**  
*12th Air Force/PA*  
**SRA Robert Joswiak**  
*AFN Kaiserslautern*  
**Capt Katherine Kebisek**  
*HQ AMC/PA*  
**MSgt Russell Kirk**  
*Air Force Art Program*  
**SSgt Melissa Koskovich**  
*SAF/PA*  
**Major Michelle Lai**  
*Air Force ISR Agency*  
**Colonel David Lamp**  
*U.S. Joint forces Command*  
**TSgt Carissa Lee**  
*17th TRW*  
**SRA R. Michael Longoria**  
*11th Wing/PA*  
**Major David Malakoff**  
*11th Wing/PA*  
**TSgt Charles Marsh**  
*81st TRW/PA*  
**Major Sean McKenna**  
*Chief, Public Affairs, AFRS*  
**SSgt Lanie McNeal**  
*355th Fighter Wing/PA*  
**TSgt Robert Newlin**  
*USAF Heritage of America Band*

**Megan Orton**  
*AFRS/PA*  
**Lt Col Michael Pierson**  
*AFSPC/PA*  
**Lt Nicholas R Plante**  
*81st Training Wing/PA*  
**Mr. B. Arlan Ponder**  
*49th Fighter Wing/PA*  
**Lt Willaim Powell**  
*7th Bomb Wing/PA*  
**Mr. Steve Richards**  
*Air Force News Agency*  
**SSgt Jacob A. Richmond**  
*355th Fighter Wing/PA*  
**Captain Nicholas J. Sabula**  
*ASBC/36SS*  
**TSgt Lindsey Sargent**  
*Langley AFB*  
**MSgt Richard Searles**  
*HQ USAF Surgeon General*  
**MSgt Rudy A. Sheffer**  
*AF/SEI*  
**Lt Rachel Sherburne**  
*JFCOM-JPASE*  
**Jillian K. Speake**  
*377th ABW/PA*  
**SMSgt Davis Steele**  
*SAF/PAR*  
**MSgt Chris Steffen**  
*314th AW/PA*  
**Capt Ethan Stoker**  
*AU/PA*  
**TSgt Matthew Summers**  
*509th Bomb Wing/PA*  
**TSgt Andrea Thacker**  
*23rd WG/PA*  
**Major Laurel Tingley**  
*HQ ACC/PA*  
**Captain David Tomiyama**  
*HQ AAFES*  
**Marie M. Vanover**  
*HQ AETC/PA*  
**SrA Carolyn Viss**  
*7th Bomb Wing/PA*  
**TSgt Michael Voss**  
*1st FW/PA*  
**Captain Natasha Waggoner**  
*ACC/PA*  
**MSgt Arthur Webb**  
*4th Fighter Wing/PA*  
**TSgt Russell Wicke**  
*Air Combat Command/PA*  
**Sgt Christopher V. Willis,**  
*Little Rock AFB*  
**SSgt James Zannetti**  
*49th Fighter Wing/PA*

“To make a long story short,” he continued, “one of the folks was Dave Shea. Dave put me in touch with some key people at Raytheon and after a rigorous interview process, in August 2007, prior to separation, I was offered a position at Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson. I began working there while on terminal leave.”

Mike says his “transition from Major to Mister” has been easy. He wants other members of AFPAAA and those who could be members, especially those still serving, to benefit from his experience. “Starting your job hunt early, well before your separation date, is a key to success.”

“As the active duty Air Force PA community continues to get smaller and people leave, networking becomes more important in getting a job, and the networking aspect of AFPAAA is great.”

“Now that I’m officially a civilian, I intend to stay active in AFPAAA. Not only will it help keep me connected to my Air Force roots, but hopefully, I can someday be helpful to an Airman who is in similar circumstances to those I have experienced.”

## Dues Due Now!

Can't recall if your one or three-year membership in AFPAAA expired last month? Contact Neil Buttimer at: [nbuttimer@omcast.net](mailto:nbuttimer@omcast.net) or call him at: (540) 972-0083.

# New Director Has Diverse Experience; Cites PA Importance - Praises Those Who Have Served And Are Serving



Brigadier General Darren W. McDew brings a wealth and diversity of experience to his position as, the new Air Force Director of Public Affairs.

General McDew graduated from VMI in 1982. His most recent assignment was as vice commander of 18th Air Force, Scott AFB. He began his flying career in KC-135s, and, among other aircraft, he has flown are the C-17, C-141, and C-130. He holds an MS in aviation management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, was a Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow

at Sun Microsystems, and participated in National Security Studies at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He was an Air Force aide to the President, a member of the Chief of Staff's Operations Group, and Chief of the Air Force's Senate Liaison Division.

General McDew has a great appreciation for the role Public Affairs plays in the Air Force. That appreciation stretches back to 1992 when he was the 93rd Bomb Wing Executive Officer and Linda Leong was the Public Affairs Officer at Castle AFB.

One of his first acts after becoming Director of Public Affairs was to express his appreciation for the efforts of past, as well as present member of the Public Affairs community.



From the Director  
of  
Air Force Public Affairs



27 Nov 07

PA Alumni,

I am honored to be serving our Air Force as the Director of Public Affairs. The foundation that you built has ensured Public Affairs has a place at the commander's table—providing trusted counsel—in an exploding global information environment.

I have admired, appreciated and greatly benefited from your expertise throughout my career. When I served as the 93rd Bombardment Wing Executive Officer at Castle AFB, CA, then-Major Linda Leong taught me the value of a great PAO, and those lessons served me well during five commands and multiple deployments. Thanks for your continued support of the Air Force Public Affairs mission and especially for the mentorship you provide to our PA professionals in the fight today. I know you are proud of them. They are deployed across the globe fighting the global war on terror on all fronts.

I look forward to meeting you and working with the Alumni Association as we continue to provide leaders and commanders with PA expertise in a very challenging information environment.

Brig Gen Darren W. McDew  
Director of Public Affairs

## Additions:

### **Chris Allen**

Sergeant, (Separated 1992), 3910 Bevans St., Cheyenne WY 82001; (307) 631-8732; E-mail: chris.allen@wyoming.com

### **Larry L. Burriss (Life Member)**

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### **Queenie A. Byars**

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### **Robert B. Chambers**

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### **James H. Hatt (Life Member)**

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### **Donna Christian Stratford**

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### **L. Michael Terrill**

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### **Kelley Thibodeau**

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### **KellyAnn Thompson**

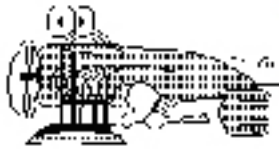
Colonel, 2353 Hunter Mill Rd, Vienna VA 22181, (703) 272-7196. Business: SAF/PA, 1690 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330, (703) 697-7926, Fax: (703) 614-1292; E-mail: chipf16@cox.net

### **Edward G. 'Ed' Worley**

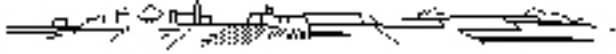
Colonel (Retired 2007), 202 Catamaran Ct., Madison AL 35758, (256) 325-3244; Business: Schafer Corp., CS01-Ofc of Strategic Analysis and Comm., Bldg. 4200, Room 720A, Marshall Space Flight Center AL 35812, (256) 544-6697, Fax: (256) 544-1390; E-mail: edbetsy@msn.com

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## Prop Wash & Jet Blast



**Welcome Aboard To . . .** *Chris Allen, Larry L. Burriss , Queenie A. Byars, Robert B. Chambers, Alan R. Freitag, James H. Hatt , Robert 'Bob' Kline, Carie A. Parker, Michael L. Warden.*

**New Lifers . . .** *Congratulations to Larry L. Burriss (Also A New Member), Jerry F. Guess, Ken Hair, James H. Hatt (Also A New Member), James C. Jannette, John Martin, Lisa Neidinger.*

**HoBa Was Great . . .** *reports AFPAAA Board Chairman Tom Halbert. Joining Tom and the folks from SAF/PA in the annual Holiday Ball festivities at Fort McNair were members Marcella Adams, Cecily Christian, Stephen Clutter, Tom Gilroy, Larry Greer, Sherry Medders, Christy Nolta, Clancy Preston, Stevi Shapiro, John Thomas, and Tom Wenz.*

**And A Word Of Thanks . . .** *from Major General Bill Chambers, SAF Director of Communication, in his after dinner remarks for the \$1,000 donation to support enlisted participation in the HOBA by former SAF/PA directors on behalf of AFPAAA.*

**A Historical Duo . . .** *from World War II, Tex Hill and Paul Tibbets, both 92, have passed on. Hill was a member of the AVG, better know as the Flying Tigers. He was a triple-ace, credited with some 18 confirmed aerial victories. In 1946, at age 31 he was the youngest brigadier general in the history of the Air Guard . . . Tibbets, who also retired as a brigadier general was the pilot of the B-29 Enola Gay that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. He was one of America's best fliers having led the first 8th Air Force B-17 mission over Nazi-held Europe and the first bombing missions supporting the invasion of North Africa.*

## Nominees Sought For Five Open Board Seats

Five seats on AFPAAA's Board of Directors are open in this year's election as the terms of Tom Halbert, Jim Hart, Hank Hufnagel, Pete Peterson, and Hal Smarkola expire.

Full members of AFPAAA can run for the seats, which carry a two-year term, by making their proposed candidacy known to the Chairman of the Board, Tom Halbert, who heads the nominating committee.

Requests to be on the ballot should include a short, three or four paragraph resume/ biography that promotes the individual's candidacy and would encourage members to vote for them if there candidacy is accepted by the committee. It should outline

their qualifications, what they have done to support AFPAAA, and why they want to serve on the Board of Directors.

Election ballots, with full instructions on who is eligible to vote and how ballots should be cast, will be included in the April issue of **AFPAAA News & Notes**.

The results of the election will be announced at the business session of the 15th Annual Membership Meeting in San Antonio, Saturday afternoon, May 17.

Those who are newly elected will begin their two-year terms on July 1. They will join Neil Buttimer, Larry McCracken, C.B. Kelly, Sam Giammo, and Christine Queen, who were elected to the board last year.

## Billy Dood It! Army Engineers Celebrate Air Force's Birthday



**AFPAAA Life Member Billy Birdwell and Army Colonel Ed Kertis, commander of the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, hold the cake Billy provided to celebrate the Air Force's 60th anniversary in September. Billy is the Public Affairs Officer for the district. Colonel Kertis is a recent graduate of the Air War College and a great supporter of Public Affairs. The cake was enjoyed by the Savannah District's senior staff. The district oversees military construction for Army posts and four Air Force bases in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. (Photo by Jonas Jordan, courtesy of the Savannah District)**

*Tsgt. Tara O'Brien*



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