

AF Outstanding Unit - 2000, 1985, 1979



THE COYOTE LOG

Vol. 44, No. 10 August 2002

"Air Base Here" - Forbes at Sixty

By SMSgt. Keith Fulton
190th Operations Group

The headline in the Topeka Daily Capital on 28 December 1941 read,



"Air Base Here" - Forbes Begins its history on 28 December, 1941

"AIR BASE HERE, Site Near Pauline Gets Approval From Army." Sixty years ago Forbes Field, as we know it today, was one of seven locations planned for construction of air bases after the United States entered WWII. Once privately owned farm property, the Army Air Corps obtained it to establish a bomber-training base for the growing war effort.

Secretary of War Harry Woodring, a former Governor of Kansas and a native Topekan, was one of many state, county, and city leaders instrumental in obtaining approval for the base.

With the legalities and paperwork complete, the property was purchased and construction on the 1,920-acre facility started in March 1942. The first troops assigned to the base, arrived in early August and were temporarily lodged in a "tent city" constructed on the Shawnee County Fairgrounds. The first bomber, a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, landed on 31 August 1942 and the base was considered an active training base by September of that year.

In a mere six months, from ground breaking to an operational airfield, Topeka Army Air Corps Base housed over 4,500 officers and enlisted personnel, had two active

runways, enough paved ramp to park over 100 bombers, and all the facilities to get the job done.

Initially the base was set up to train bomber crews after receiving specialty training at other locations throughout the United States. Personnel were transferred to Topeka and assigned to indi-

vidual crews to fly the B-17 and the Consolidated B-24 Liberator. The crews received their final "polishing" before being sent to the theater of combat. "All phases of training incident to combat operations will be carried out," said Colonel Leo W. DeRosier, Commanding Officer of the 333d Heavy Bombardment Group.

"Not only will pilots, copilots, navigators, gunners and radio operators get their final practice as a team, but also the flights and squadrons will be given training in carrying out coordinated missions".

Editor's note: This is the first of a two part article. It will be continued in the September 2002 Coyote Log.



Forbes Field's first airframes: B-17 and B-24

Commander's Comments

I recently read an interview with a political candidate who believed they were a "self-made" man. I have come to the conclusion that no one is "self-made." We are the product of many people's influence and intervention in our lives. A person's birth a happenstance, but after that throughout our lives we encounter many people who influence our decisions, successes, and ultimately who we become.

Think about yourself. Did your parents, a teacher, a clergy member or a neighbor take the time to teach you a lesson of importance as you grew up and as you progressed to adulthood? I expect there was. When you became an adult, did you have a boss or a mentor who took the time to help you in your career? Think about the support you have received from your spouse, family and friends that has made a difference in your career and personal growth.

This is true in the 190th as well. None of us are "self-made" in this unit. Our fellow unit members are the ones who in large part

determine your success.

We all rely on our fellow 190th members to perform our jobs. Each member of an aircrew relies on each other to perform an air-refueling mission—from the pilot to the boom operator to the aircraft maintainer and crew chief. Each job is important.

It takes the Services Flight to provide food and lodging to the Security Forces, who in turn protect the assets of the 190th and secure the base. It takes the Fuels Unit to assure that the aircraft have fuel in the right quantities so that the Maintenance Squadron can keep the aircraft flying. It takes the 117th Air Refueling Squadron to fly the aircraft and refuel other aircraft in midair. You get the picture.

Everyone at Forbes are important—to each other and to the mission of the 190th. Supervisors, managers and leaders are obligated to show the airmen who work for and with us that we understand the importance of their contributions. Some of the ways we can show this are when an airman is due a



Captain Sheli Sweeney
Services Flight Commander

promotion and deserving of it, we should promote them. When an airman is worthy of recognition for their dedication and hard work, we should recognize them. Even if all we can do is say "thank you," we should do so.

Truly none of us are "self-made" and we should remember that our success is dependent on our fellow Kansas Coyotes—whether we are an airman, a pilot, or a commander.

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The *Coyote Log*, published monthly, is a US Air Force funded newspaper for members of the US Military Services. Contents of the *Coyote Log* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Dept. of Defense, or the Dept. of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 190th ARW Public Affairs Office.



O'Toole Assumes Command

By 2nd Lt. Chris Hill

190th Public Affairs

Upon completion of the simple act of passing a flag from one to another, Col. Michael J. O'Toole assumed command of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

The change of command ceremony took place at Forbes Field on July 14, 2002.

"These last eight years have prepared me for this job," said Col. Michael O'Toole.

While O'Toole looks to the future and his role as commander, he acknowledges that one of his priorities will be to maintain the high level of excellence that his predecessors displayed. "The leadership of the 190th for the past four years by Col. Forrest and the four years prior to that under Col. Thomas's command has taught me a great deal," said O'Toole.

"Col. Forrest has turned the 190th over to me in excellent condition," O'Toole said.

"These aircraft are operated, maintained and supported by some of the most talented and motivated groups of people I have ever known," said O'Toole.

Prior to his selection as Wing Commander, O'Toole served in a variety of command positions including, Logistics Group Commander and most recently Operations

Group Commander.

O'Toole replaces Col. Rufus L. Forrest Jr. Forrest was chosen to act as the Special Assistant to the Adjutant General to develop and pursue future missions for the 190th.

O'Toole has been with the Wing for more than 30 years. O'Toole is a Master Pilot and has flown more than 6,900 hours.



Col. Michael O'Toole assumes command of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.



AB
Benson Cessna, Maint

A1C 
Stella Burkey, Log Support Flt
Bryan Hall, Weather Flt
Glenn King, Log Support Flt
Matthew Madinger, Maint
David McGuire, CES
Forrest Mears, CES
Kevin Nease, CES
Michael Schneider, Maint
Mary Upham, Weather Flt
Michael Weaver, Log Spt Flt

TSGT 
Justin Lincks, Weather Flt

MSGT 
Michael Akers, SVF

MAJ 
Bill Hefner, Med Sq

CAPT 
Robert Crossley, Med Sq

2LT 
Jennifer Kern, FM

Tech School Accomplishments

Distinguished Honor Graduate
SSgt. Scott Stansell Sr.

Honor Graduate
A1C Elisha Smith

**7th Annual
Bruce
Whaley
Spirit Ride**



The seventh annual Bruce Whaley Spirit Ride will take place on Sept. 14 at 8:00 a.m.

Whaley worked as a 190th Crew Chief from 1989 until his untimely death in March 1995 from Leukemia.

All bicycle riders will depart from shelter house number two at Lake Shawnee for a 6.5 mile family fun ride, 25 mile or 50 mile ride.

Safety helmets are required.

All proceeds will go to the Leukemia Association.

Food will be provided along with many door prizes.

Registration is \$20.00

Contact CMSgt. Linda Mollnow at 785-861-4637 for more information.

**S c h e d u l e
C h a n g e !**

October UTA dates have been changed from 12-13 October to 19-20 October to allow for an extra week off between September and October UTA's.

For full time personnel, the SDO on the 30th of September has been moved to 4 October and the eight hour day has been moved to 3 October.

If you have any questions please contact SrA Wagner in the Commander's office at ext. 4791.

Coyote Cafe Menu

Saturday August 3

- Meatloaf
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Broccoli
- Mixed Vegetables
- Devil's Food Cake w/
Chocolate Frosting

Sunday August 4

- Pork Chops
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn
- Apple Crisp

Lodging for August

Holiday Inn - Holidome

*Don't forget to notify
your motel monitor if
you require a room for
Saturday night!*

Chapel Hours

Protestant: 0800-0830

Catholic: 1345-1415

Latter Day Saints: 1100-1130



All "State Tuition Assistance" forms are due back in the Retention Office on the August UTA.

If you are within 60 days of your enlistment anniversary date and you are enrolled in the Student Loan Repayment Bonus Program please stop by the Retention Office to review your records. Contact MSgt. Jean Robinson, Retention Office Manager at DSN 720-4712, Comm. 785-861-4712 if you have any questions or require further information.



Medal of Distinction ...



The Kansas Bar Association's Phil Lewis Medal of Distinction was awarded to the 190th ARW

Coyotes at the Lake ...



Members of the Operations Group train at Lake Pomona during the July UTA.

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Learn more about us at
www.kansascoyotes.com



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