

Chicago-area artists present Air Force life on canvas

By Tech. Sgt. Karen Pettitt
AMC Public Affairs

During the past year, Air Mobility Command has taken more than 30 artists to bases and operational sites throughout the United States, Europe and Asia so they could portray the Air Force mission on canvas.

These artists documented their impressions and presented their work to the Air Force at an exhibit here Sunday hosted by Lt. Gen. Walter F. Hogle Jr., AMC vice commander. From Ken Dallison's ink wash of maintainers from

Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Philip Renaud's oil portrait of a female C-5 aircraft commander, the works are as varied as the artists themselves.

"I try to capture the moment and will sketch on site as much as possible," said Dallison, an internationally renowned artist who resides in Canada. He, like the other artists, belongs to the Chicago-based Midwest Air Force Artist Group, which was founded in 1978 in response to the growing Air Force Art Program that began in 1950.

Sketching on site can be a prob-

lem, though, said George Clark, who presented his pen and ink rendition of two C-9 pilots in the cockpit.

"It's a small compartment area, the ride can be a little bumpy, and it's not as if you can tell the pilots to stop what they're doing and pose," said Clark, who's been with the program for 15 years. "However, the crew was great, and that's the reason I stay with this program. I love going behind the scenes and getting to know the people. It's an honor to present this painting in return."

The art program is designed to pay for the airfare, meals and travel expenses of the artists who then volunteer their time and are required to present one painting from the trip.

Many times, artists will present more than one such as John Downs, who this year presented four paintings. Downs' collection is taken from the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift held in May.

"John also presented nine paintings in a special exhibit for

the Berlin Airlift anniversary, shown in Germany," said Don Wiggins, AMC's art program manager. "He's one of our most prolific artists in the program. There are several other artists who go above what's required and many times their paintings are worth \$30,000 or more," Wiggins added. "AMC is well represented this year and has been for the past couple of years. Our goal is to 'flood the market' with AMC paintings! The artists' gifts to the Air Force have a priceless and educational value, and the quality of the paintings are impressive."

Dallison said he enjoys "thanking the American military" this way.

"I like to show the human connection to the machines, so I portray the aircraft in various stages of rip down. I copy the lettering used on the maintenance log sheets exactly. I show proportion of sizes with people and aircraft. I also keep the integrity of the faces—people will recognize themselves."

A lot of the artists are ready to go on a moments' notice, said Wiggins. "If something kicks off, we can get artists together and be ready to go in about 48 hours. We like to show the peacetime efforts of our military, but we also need to be out there when we're at our

busiest, such as during the Kosovo crisis."

There were 33 pieces presented Sunday, and those will be on display in the AMC Headquarters building until May 2000. On Oct. 20, 2000, the Air Force formally accepts the artwork during a black-tie gala ceremony in Washington, D.C. The artwork is then displayed in the halls of the Pentagon, the Air Force Academy, the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the Air University at Maxwell AFB, Ala., at all major command headquarters and at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

In addition, traveling exhibits appear yearly at Kitty Hawk, N.C., and the Mighty Big Eight Museum, in Savannah, Ga. Other one-time exhibits can be displayed at special Air Force events such as open houses and anniversary celebrations.

There are other groups the Air Force Art Program works with: The Society of Illustrators of New York, the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, the Society of Illustrators of San Francisco and freelance artists. Today, there are more than 8,300 pieces in the Air Force collection. Next fall, the art program celebrates its 50 years in existence.



Artist John Downs captures the media frenzy during the 50th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift held in Germany in May. Downs presented this and three other paintings to AMC officials during a turn in ceremony Nov. 14. There were 33 paintings presented as part of the Air Force Art Program.

Panel assesses quality of health care

By Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

A new federal advisory committee is evaluating how well DoD is improving the quality of health care it provides some 9 million eligible beneficiaries.

The Healthcare Quality Initiatives Review Panel has met twice since Sept. 21 to review access and quality improvement initiatives begun in early 1998 and to assess how well DoD has done in achieving quality objectives, including:

- Better education and training programs for physicians and other health care providers
- Establishing "centers of excellence" for complicated surgical procedures
- Reporting malpractice and adverse

credential issues to the National Practitioner Data Bank (a service designed to prevent physicians who lose their license to practice in one state from seeking new credentials in another state)

- Providing beneficiaries comprehensive information on the quality of health care they receive
- Making sure laboratory standards are met
- Ensuring the accuracy of patient information.

Panel members, appointed by Defense Secretary William Cohen, include physicians, nurses and representatives from service organizations that support the armed forces. More information about the panel's objectives is available on the Internet at www.hqirp.org.

437th Aerial Port Squadron and using Charleston based airlift aircraft.

A total of 14,428,698 pounds were shipped to 27 countries with supplies donated by 130 organizations in fiscal 1999.

Among the types of cargo shipped included medical and educational supplies, food and grain, linens and clothing, sporting goods, agricultural machinery, water purification equipment, building supplies/tools and computers and office equipment.

For information on the operational aspects of the Denton Program, call Ken Hundemer at 963-6425, Ron Westall at 963-6424 or Jim Ward at 963-6423.



Staff Sgt. Brian Jones

Pilot for a day

Lt. Col. Scott Grunwald, 17th Airlift Squadron commander, presents Chris Banks, 12, with a unit scarf. Banks, who suffers from Leukemia, was given a tour of Charleston AFB Nov. 9, and named an honorary pilot. He is a patient at the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital and took part in the base Pilot for a Day program, sponsored by the 17 AS. During the daylong tour, he and his family toured the C-17 simulator, firearm training simulator, saw a C-17 static display and ate lunch at the base dining facility.

Denton

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parts of the world. We started looking for a permanent home for the Denton program when it started and Charleston was the obvious choice since the base handles so much Denton cargo," said John Becker, a transportation specialist from U.S. Transportation Command headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

The Denton Program was officially established in 1986, and in fiscal 1999, shipped more than 11 million pounds for Hurricane Mitch, most of it through Charleston's