



### Pilot for a Day

Lt. Col. Scott Grunwald, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron commander, pins pilot wings onto Kevin Rutkowski, a participant in the pilot for a day program. The program was established by the 17 AS to provide ill children an opportunity to see the day to day operations of Charleston AFB. Rutkowski, a patient at the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital, suffers from leukemia.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

## Celebrating Black History Month African American Heritage Council spotlights Brig. Gen. Mary Saunders

In recognition of Black History Month, the CAFB African American Heritage Council is showcasing prominent African-American figures with substantial contributions to the Air Force. This week's spotlight is on Mary L. Saunders.

Brig. Gen. Mary L. Saunders is commander of the Defense Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC) in Columbus, Ohio. As DSCC's commander, General Saunders oversees an operating budget of more than \$1.8 billion.

The commander also directs the functions of more than 2,600 employees involved in purchasing materiel, monitoring inventory levels, maintaining technical data, and assuring quality conformance of more than 2.2 million spare parts used by over 20,000 customers in the military forces and civilian federal agencies.

Before coming to DSCC, she was director of Transportation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S.

Air Force, Washington D.C. In that position she was responsible for developing policies, plans and programs to move passengers, personal property and cargo, by all modes, commercial and military.

The general was born in Nacogdoches, Texas and grew up in Houston. She has held various assignments in transportation and logistics plans, in the squadron, wing, numbered air force, headquarters and joint arenas.

She is a member of the Air Force Association, National Defense Transportation Association, American Association of University Women, and the National Association for Female Executives.



Brig. Gen.  
Mary Saunders

# AF budget proposal focuses on people, readiness

**\$71.2 billion to be used for aerospace power, people, readiness, modernization and critical needs**

The Air Force continues to focus its emphasis on people, readiness and evolution toward an expeditionary force as it unveiled its proposed fiscal 2001 budget Feb. 7, totaling \$71.2 billion.

This figure excludes funds earmarked for the National Foreign Intelligence Program, Special Operations Command and the Defense Health program.

The Air Force budget represents a 1.1 percent real growth across the future years' defense program, and sustains funding levels and balance in major areas, including people, readiness, modernization and infrastructure.

The overall Department of Defense request totals \$291.1 billion in budget authority. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said the budget protects the president's commitment to preserving America's military excellence.

That commitment is reinforced by added funding—\$4.8 billion in FY01—primarily for operations in

Bosnia and Kosovo, and higher fuel costs.

Secretary Cohen said the budget proposal continues DOD's post-Cold War transformation of the U.S. defense posture, in keeping with his 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review. In characterizing progress on that transformation, he said, "The foundation is laid, blueprints are agreed upon, and key building blocks are in place."

However, he cautioned that "more hard work and tough choices are needed."

Last year's budget included the largest increase in military compensation in a generation. This year's plan calls for improvements in health care, a base pay raise of 3.7 percent, and a major effort to lower members' out-of-pocket housing expenses, eliminating them by 2005.

The DOD proposal includes initiatives to eliminate co-payments for active-duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime and receiving civilian care, and expansion of TRICARE Prime Remote to active-duty families living far from military treatment facilities.

DOD is also studying other improvements, including options to improve health care benefits for over-65 military retirees.

DOD leaders said the bud-

get will sustain current high levels of readiness, and its full funding of Bosnia and Kosovo operations is key to protecting those levels. The request projects \$60 billion for procurement and includes continued investments in the F-22 Raptor and cost-effective upgrades to existing systems.

For the Air Force, its budget targets five objectives: aerospace power; people; readiness; modernization; and physical plant critical needs, which includes military construction, facility maintenance, and environmental issues.

On the construction front, funding for new and current Air Force military construction totals nearly \$600 million and addresses its most pressing near-term needs.

This includes \$8.4 million for the Air Force Reserve and \$37.1 million for the Air National Guard.

Targets include 10 dormitories, one child-care facility, four fitness centers, three new family housing projects, and various logistics, support and maintenance facilities

For its total housing construction program, the Air Force is allocating \$224 million.

This includes new construction funds totaling \$36.7 million and replacing

272 units. The Air Force is also continuing its privatization efforts, studying 10 current candidates and another six candidates for FY01.

In its recruiting and retention programs, the Air Force continues its emphasis on combating downward trends. For FY01, \$354 million — an increase of \$42 million from FY00 — is allotted for recruiting and retention programs. Funding will go toward expanded reenlistment bonuses, increased promotion rates, EAF implementation, additional recruiters and advertising.

The Air Force budget proposal includes funding for operating 10 aerospace expeditionary forces and increased funding for aircraft and missile maintenance, training facilities, critical spare parts and maintenance of existing force structure.

However, Air Force officials concede problems remain with the pace of modernization and the backlog on infrastructure maintenance

and repair continues to grow.

Funding initiatives totaling \$2.8 billion are earmarked for upgrades in aircraft systems like the C-5, C-130, F-16, F-15E, A-10 and B-1. Another eight initiatives address spares shortfalls through FY02 totaling \$1.3 billion. These are aimed at increasing spares, reducing backorders, streamlining the order process, reducing distribution time and increasing inventory visibility.

The Air Force proposal also continues its balanced and time-phased modernization effort including the C-17, F-22, C-130J, CV-22, JPATS and JSTARS fleets. It's also continuing to develop and modernize the evolved expendable launch vehicle, space-based infrared systems, and global positioning system.

Next-generation weapons like the joint strike fighter, unmanned aerial vehicles, and precision weapons are also targeted for development.

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