



September 11, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MTIA MEMBERS

SUBJECT: Annual MTIA Newsletter

1. CMSgt Kevin Ludwig, Superintendent, Air Force Basic Training:

It is great to be back in Air Force Basic Military Training! I near completion of five months as the new BMT Superintendent and I can tell you it has not been dull. My thanks to the many MTIs—past and present—who have welcomed me back to BMT and supported my transition to this new job and to me as I settle into San Antonio.

One of my early observations upon returning to BMT is the more things change the more they really haven't changed—for our primary mission remains the same today as it did 20+ years ago: to train recruits to become an Airman imbued with a Warrior Ethos, Air Force Core Value focused, and is expeditionary capable to execute the mission as part of an Air Force Team, any time, any place. The only way we accomplish our mission is through an ultra professional MTI Corps. We can be adorned with all kinds of hightech training gadgets, computer databases, and have \$1B training complexes yet none of which will matter if the MTI Corps is weak and fails to execute their responsibilities. My top priority will be MTI excellence, professionalism, and leadership, which ensure the integrity, credibility, and ultimate success of our BMT program.

With a strong MTI Corps we'll take on many changes and challenges over the next 1215 months in BMT. We just completed the 21st Basic Military Training Review. They in fact validated that we are on the right track to prepare and train WarriorAirman. Next on 1 Oct 07, we are scheduled to begin issue of the Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) to all trainees—so a new look for our MTIs, trainees, and Air Force. Getting closer every day is 4 Nov 08, this is the start date of our 8.5 week BMT program. Between now and then we'll grow the MTI Corps from 421 authorized to 515. Accordingly we'll energize our MTI Recruiting Team and explore other alternatives to find the 124 MTIs we need in FY08. We plan to put 25 students in MTIS every month in FY08. Plus we'll keep a cadre of 810 MTIs deployed (1365day tour and the others on 179day tours) to the CENTCOM AOR to provide Iraqi Air Force enlisted training. These are just some of the highlights I mentioned it will not be dull in BMT? But when was it ever dull in BMT?

As we take on these changes and challenges, I keep in mind the comment Thucydides made as he observed the Peloponnesian Wars in 404 B.C. He is best who is trained in the severest school. So without doubt we'll continue to keep high training standards, demanding training requirements, and intense training scenarios we'll train recruits and not simply process them

into our Air Force. We'll do this under the constant vigilance and dedication of a superb MTI Corps. We're ready—so bring on the challenges—we'll meet them head on and exceed all expectations!

On a personal note, I am happy and honored to have come back to BMT as the Superintendent. My predecessors set the standard of performance high and I assure you I will follow their legacy of service and performance and work to leave BMT better than I found it, just as those did that came before me. Anytime you are in the area please stop by the office for a visit.

2. CMSgt Jay Pavey, President, MTIA:

In June of this year we celebrated our fifth anniversary as an association. It is amazing how the original vision of this association has morphed during that time. I am extremely proud of how the association has grown and what we have been able to accomplish during the last five years. The initial vision seemed to be one focusing on bringing MTIs together. We have accomplished that and much, much more. I would like to highlight what we do as an association.

We continue to sponsor an annual convention at Lackland Air Force Base. During the convention we recognize the outstanding accomplishments of active duty MTIs, as well as those who serve in other capacities. We have a very broad reach these days as we have successfully brought together the MTIs at Lackland, Maxwell, and the Air Force Academy during this forum. No longer is one forgotten once they leave Lackland.

The crown jewel of our convention is the Honors Banquet. During this event we present active duty and former instructors with a host of recognition for their outstanding work and contributions to the Air Force mission, as well as to society. We have had the privilege of having such former MTIs speak at this event such as: CMSAF Gary Pfingston, CMSAF Bob Gaylor, SMSgt Staton, Brigadier General Richard Coleman, and CMSAF Jim McCoy.

We continue to educate and preserve the history of our profession. We annually recognize those amongst us who served as MTIs in the 1950s with an annual barbeque called the, xTiger Stripe Ballx. It is a great event in which we take the time to highlight the careers of those who laid the groundwork for what virtually everyone considers to be the most demanding and prestigious enlisted job in the Air Force.

We now provide an annual scholarship to an active duty instructor who, in addition to meeting the demands of MTI duty, continues to press forward to further his or her education.

We created the MTI Benevolent Fund so that we would have a mechanism in place so that we can assist current and former MTIs with unforeseen hardships, as well as recognize those among us who have passed.

We are currently in the process of standing up the Spouses Group. I had the distinct privilege of meeting with a number of highly motivated and dedicated spouses who have a great passion to assist others just like themselves. Instead of sitting around and feeling like a lost soul, these individuals are accomplishing some fantastic things. They assist other spouses with whatever their needs may be, as well as contribute to the community and the base in many, many different ways.

I am most proud of the fact that more than 90% of the dues we take in, as well as the money we raise, goes back to assisting MTIs in some form or another. Virtually every bit of this goes back to active duty instructors in some capacity. The balance of what we take in is used for operating costs, e.g., postage, coins, stickers, and so forth. Not one individual who currently serves in a MTIA leadership position or has served in one in the past has received any form of compensation for their efforts. Everyone is a volunteer and each person contributes out of his or her own pocket to help defray the costs of operating this association.

Finally, plan on attending this year's Sixth Annual Convention. BMT continues to respond to worldwide needs and training today is more impressive than ever before. Come see it first hand, as well as make some new friends and reacquaint yourself with some old ones!

3. 2006 Annual MTIA Elections: The following individuals were elected as officers of the MTIA for a twoyear term to run from October 2006 – October 2008:

President: CMSgt (Ret) John J. Pavey, Jr.
Vice President: SMSgt Walter Myhre, 331 TRS/TS
Treasurer: TSgt Justin Phebus, 331 TRS
Secretary: TSgt Anthony Vining, 322 TRS

4. 2007 Annual MTIA Elections: The term of service for the following position will end at this year's convention and voting will take place to fill this position:

Senior Vice President (currently filled by CMSgt Nick Zuehl)

Please submit nominations to fill this position to CMSgt Pavey at j.pavey@mchsi.com.

5. 2007 Annual Convention: The Sixth Annual MTIA Convention will be held at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, from 17 – 19 October, 2007. This is a great event that grows year by year. If you have not had the chance to attend, please start planning now. BMT rolls out the red carpet for everyone. There will be plenty of tours to see the latest in basic training, as well as numerous social events in which you can just sit back and enjoy yourself. If you have not been to Lackland in many years, trust me, you need to make a trip soon. The changes will absolutely astound you. We will post the agenda and convention registration form on our web site as soon as we finalize everything. Look for that to take place by late August or early September.

6. 2007 MTIA Honors Banquet: The Sixth Annual MTIA Honors Banquet will be held on 17 October 2007 on Lackland AFB. This year's guest speaker will be former BMT Commander General Thomas Richards (1974 – 1975). General Richards was the one who instructed then TSgt George Barrett to go TDY to San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot and thereafter to formulate the Blue Rope Awards Program. I am certain his perspective on his days in BMT will be quite enlightening to all. Plan on attending this event, in addition to the many others. I am certain you will not be disappointed.

7. Passing of CMSAF Gary R. Pfingston: It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of CMSAF #10 Gary R. Pfingston on 27 June 2007 at the age of 67 after a long struggle with cancer. CMSAF Pfingston spent many years in BMT, beginning as a street instructor in the 3711 BMTS in 1973. Over the next nine years, he served in a number of key leadership positions

culminating as the Commandant of MTIS. CMSAF Pffingston was the first guest speaker at the initial MTIA Convention in 2002 and strongly supported our organization through the years. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery and was survived by his wife, Marsha.

8. CMSgt Lester A. Daly Retirement: On July 13, 2007, CMSgt Lester A. Daly retired after more than 29 years of faithful and dedicated service to his country and the United States Air Force. Of those 29 years, Les served three tours of duty as an MTI with more than 13 years in BMT. During his time at Lackland, he served as a Team Chief, MD&C Instructor, Section Supervisor, Training Superintendent, and most recently as Chief, Stan Team. During his latest assignment he served two years as Vice President of the MTIA. We wish Les and his wife Veronica best wishes as they move onto the next phase in their lives.

9. MTIA Cruise: K & K World Travel, <http://www.kkworldtravel.com>, an MTI Owned Business, has put together a Group MTIA Cruise for our members and the MTI community. The cruise, scheduled aboard Carnival Cruise Lines is scheduled to depart Galveston, Texas on 3 May 2008, for 5 nights in the Caribbean. The initial signup has been very successful with 24 bookings in the first 3 week period. As a result, Carnival extended our sign up time frame through Nov 2007. To make reservations, visit our MTIA website, and select the link for our [First Annual MTIA Cruise](#). The cruise will benefit our MTIA Scholarship Program. Questions can be directed to Ken Wilkinson, Owner, K & K World Travel, through our website, or kktravel@satx.rr.com.

10. USAF Military Training Instructor Benevolent Fund (MTIBF): The MTIBF continues to assist active and former MTIs as the need arises. Please send all donations to, [MTI Benevolent Fund](#), P.O. Box 276477, San Antonio, TX 782276477.

11. Department of State Recruiting Notice: Former MTI John Shippy, Major, USAF, Retired, currently works for the Department of State as a recruiter. For those who are retired or are contemplating retirement and are looking for a second career that is extremely challenging and one where you can make a difference, please contact John Shippy at shippyjd3@state.gov or visit the Department of State web site: <http://www.careers.state.gov>.

12. MTI Spouses Group:

This has been an important year for the spouses of MTIs at Lackland. The official MTIA Spouses Group was formed to provide support and education for the MTIs other halves.

As we all know, MTIs schedules are very demanding and many times marriages pay the price. The stress involved with the job is not only overwhelming to those who wear the campaign hats, but also to the spouses at home. The purpose of the MTIA Spouses Group is to provide a network of MTI spouses that can be called upon for support and friendship.

The Spouses Group's first meeting was in February. Monthly meetings have followed. Every other month, the group offers a [Meet and Greet](#) forum to welcome new spouses to the MTI family.

In addition to the monthly meetings and [meet and greets](#), the Spouses Group has provided [Layette Baskets](#) for new parents in the MTI corps.

This will be the first year that the spouses will have an event at the MTIA Convention planned especially for them. The event is open to all spouses and significant others of past and present MTIs—regardless of membership in the MTIA.

All those interested are invited to have lunch with us on October 17, 2007, 1200, at the Gateway Club. It is a payasyougo event.

13. 737 TRG 2005 Annual Award Winners (Instructor Categories):

Airman Instructor of the Year: SrA Marcus Ray
NCO Instructor of the Year: SSgt Rodney Deese, 737 TRSS
Senior NCO Instructor of the Year: MSgt Robert Hembree, 737 TRSS
Rookie MTI of the Year: TSgt Matilda Mahone, 324 TRS
2006 Blue Rope of the Year: TSgt Kenneth J. Pryga, 737 TRSS

14. 433 TRS 2005 Annual Award Winners:

NCO Instructor of the Year: TSgt Kenneth Allen
Senior NCO Instructor of the Year: TSgt Tracey Eubanks
Blue Rope of the Year: TSgt Hugo Gamarra

15. 2006 MTIA Annual Award Winners:

President's Award Winner: SSgt Jacob Chavez, 322 TRS
Special Achievement Award Winner: MSgt Troy L. McKay, MTIS
Special Achievement Award Winner: MSgt Tijuana Hannibal, OTS
MTI Spouse of the Year: Mrs. Deanna Elms
Recruiter of the Year: TSgt Tony Vining, 322 TRS

16. Membership and Renewals (Understanding the Process): All membership applications and renewals should be sent to the San Antonio Post Office Box, as listed on the official MTIA web site (www.usafmtia.org). The MTIA staff at Lackland checks the post office box on a regular basis. All checks are deposited in the bank on Lackland and the membership roster is updated. The roster is then forwarded electronically to SSgt (Vet) Tim Johnson in California who prepares the mailouts. Try as we might, someone seems to get overlooked from time to time. I would appreciate your patience. The members of the MTIA staff are strictly volunteers and they serve out of their passion for the MTI Corps. If your application, renewal, or inquiry is not handled as quick as you think it should or if for some reason we have overlooked something, please contact me and I will ensure the matter is looked into and resolved immediately.

17. MTIA Academic Scholarship: The MTIA is proud to announce that, in conjunction with BMT, we will again award a \$500.00 academic scholarship to an active duty instructor who has excelled academically and continues to pursue educational accomplishments while assigned as an instructor. The scholarship will be awarded in August and the individual recognized will be honored at the MTIA Honors Banquet in October. This award is restricted to active duty instructors who carry the MTI special duty identifier.

18. **Volunteers Needed:** Volunteers are always needed to assist with the operation of the MTIA. The only requirement we have is that you are either currently an instructor or have served as an instructor in the past. If you want to get involved, please contact any board member. If you are willing to help, I promise you we can find something for you to do. We especially have a need for those who are on active duty. Please contact your squadron representative SMSgt Walt Myhre if you are interested.

19. **MTIA Web Site:** SSgt (Vet) Tim Johnson continues to maintain our official web site in an extraordinary manner. He is always looking for photographs from any era to add to the site. Additionally, he is also looking for any information related to the history of former squadrons, e.g., past commander and training superintendent names, annual award winners, and so forth. Please feel free to email him anything you may possess to him at xmti1@earthlink.net or to his physical address at 801 Century, Campbell, CA 95008.

20. **BMT Flight Picture Project:** The Lackland AFB Historians Office recently created a database of flight pictures from past years. The purpose of this ambitious project is to include a flight picture of every flight that went through basic training! Please take the time to dig through your old records and see what you can find to help out. You can send a scanned flight picture to: 37trw.ho@lackland.af.mil or you can mail a hard copy to 37 TRW/HO, 1650 Carswell Ave., Lackland AFB, TX 78236. The History Office is also accepting other photographs involving basic training as well. Please ensure any photographs submitted are clearly identified.

For further information, please go to: <http://www.lackland.af.mil/info/flightphoto.asp>

21. **Online Renewals and Membership:** You can now renew or join the MTIA via our web site. Please go to www.usafmtia.org. Click on xThe MTIAx on the side panel, then click on xMembership in the MTIAx to find the email sign up option.

John J. Pavey, Jr.

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