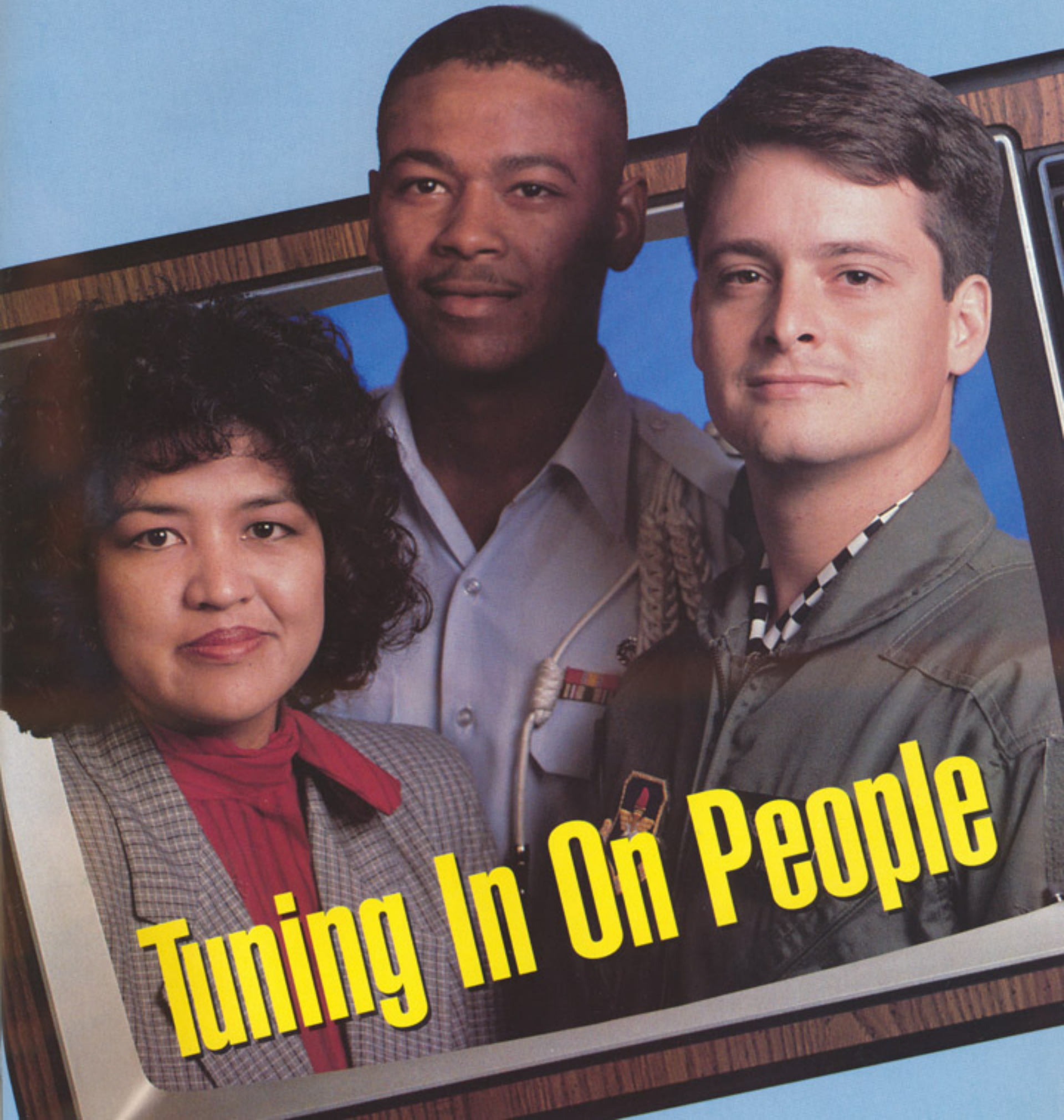




# Airman

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**Tuning In On People**



## Squadron Relocates

**Norton AFB, Calif.** — Norton AFB lost its third flying squadron recently as the base prepares for closure in March 1994.

The 459th Airlift Squadron was the latest unit to relocate, taking its C-12Fs and C-21As to March AFB, Calif. Earlier in 1992 the 14th ALS relocated to Charleston AFB, S.C., and the 52nd ALS inactivated.

The mission of the 459th ranges from providing high-visibility airlift support for civilian and foreign dignitaries, senior service-members and time-sensitive cargo, to emergency medical airlift on a full-time basis for Brooke Army and Wilford Hall medical centers.

## Advances in Space

**Kirtland AFB, N.M.** — Three New Mexico laboratories have established an Institute for Advanced Space Materials and Structures to increase the reliability of U.S. spacecraft and space-based systems.

The institute is a collaboration of the Air Force's Phillips Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory. It is the latest outgrowth of a strategic alliance agreement among the three laboratories signed in January 1991 to combine their efforts in a teaming approach to problems of national interest.



MSGT Michael J. Heppner

## Changing Times

**Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.** — Times are a changin' at Wurtsmith AFB.

Dec. 2 the 524th Bombardment Squadron, 379th Operations Group and 379th Operational Support Squadron all inactivated. The next day the last B-52G Stratofortress left Wurtsmith and headed for the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

The 524th had been part of Wurtsmith and Michigan for more than 30 years.

# RESTRUCTURING



MSGT Michael J. Heppner

## Carry on, Phantom II

**Holloman AFB, N.M.** — When officials announced George AFB, Calif., would close in December, they faced the task of weeding out those missions deemed valuable and moving their operations to new homes throughout the Air Force.

The mission of the 9th Fighter Squadron, formerly the 20th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, was one such commodity, and is now operating out of Holloman.

"Our mission is to provide world class F-4 Phantom II training to the German air force," said Lt. Col. Rick Rosborg, commander of the Iron Knights. "We teach a basic operational course to their graduates fresh out of pilot training and navigator school. We also teach a fighter weapons instructor course to more advanced students who would typically be on their second tour in fighters."

This operation, conducted under the terms of a foreign military sales agreement, is 100-percent funded by the German government to the tune of \$50 million a year, Rosborg added. The squadron operates 17 aircraft owned by the U.S. government and seven that are owned by the German government. In addition to the 9th, the 1st German Air Force Training Squadron participates in flying training with four German instructors and monitors training guidelines.

— Kathleen A. Keane, AFNS

## Last Graduation

**Williams AFB, Ariz.** — The last pilot training class at Williams AFB graduates Jan. 22, ending more than 51 years of flying training for the United States and 39 allied countries.

More than 26,000 aviators earned their wings at Williams since the first class graduated in 1941. Another 33 pilots are scheduled to graduate in January's class 93-04.

Former wing members and graduates interested in attending the graduation ceremony and activities should call the public affairs office at DSN 474-6612 or commercial (602) 988-6612.

Williams will officially close Sept. 30.

## Bases, Units Transfer to ATC

**Kelly AFB, Texas** — Three bases and seven other training units will transfer to Air Training Command under a realignment announced Dec. 2 by Secretary of the Air Force Donald B. Rice.

Most weapons systems crew training will be conducted by ATC under the training realignment, which takes effect July 1. It includes airlift, refueling, search and rescue, fighter, ICBM, and special operations crew training.

Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Luke AFB, Ariz., which provide initial qualification, upgrade training, and requalification training for the F-15, F-15E and F-16, will transfer from Air Combat Command to ATC. Altus AFB, Okla., home of C-5 and C-141 training, will transfer from Air Mobility Command.

In addition, AT-38 basic fighter transition training, currently conducted at Holloman AFB, N.M., will be decentralized to undergraduate pilot training bases.

Four active-duty units will be assigned to ATC, but will remain at their respective bases. They are: the 398th Operations Group, Castle AFB, Calif.; 557th Flying Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.; 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.; and the 542nd Combat Crew Training Wing, Kirkland AFB, N.M.

Three Air National Guard units also will be assigned to ATC, but stay at their respective bases. They are the 114th Fighter Squadron, Klamath Falls International Airport, Ore.; 162nd Fighter Group, Tucson International Airport, Ariz.; and the 184th Fighter Group, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Realignment of the training will simplify the line of authority and strengthen the Air Force's training system by placing most weapons systems crew training under one command, Rice said.

The Air Force also announced an unrelated realignment of its operational support airlift fleet of AMC C-12 and C-21 aircraft.

(AFNS)