***THIS IS A RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR AN AIR FORCE RESERVIST NAMED MELVIN BANKS. HE IS RETIRING AFTER 33 YEARS IN THE RESERVES. AUDIENCE WILL BE ABOUT 50 PEOPLE AND FAMILY WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE (LISTED BELOW). THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS THAT WILL BE THERE IS HIS NEW BRIDE (He’s known for 14 years, and three sons. HIS FATHER, MOTHER AND ALL OTHER SIBILINGS HAVE ALL PASSED AWAY). I WOULD LOVE THIS TO BE A FUNNY YET MEMORABLE AND HEARTWARMING RETIREMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO OPEN UP THE CEREMONY WITH A LAUGH. I GET NERVOUS WITH THESE CEREMONIES SO ANYTHING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL! BELOW IS HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETIREE!***

***FACTS about TSgt Melvin Banks***

Originally from Metairie Louisiana – make joke about this being a small town
Self Described “opportunist” with the goal to be an entrepreneur
Life goal is to one day become an Air Force ROTC high school instructor
A reservist (Citizen Airman) with 33 years of service in the Air Force Reserves

* Serves as a TSgt in the United States Air Force Reserves
- In the civilian sector --- he completed the “troops to teach program” and is currently a teacher at a local high school teaching business elective courses.
TSgt Banks is one of the “originals” and is currently the longest serving member within my Force Support Squadron as a traditional reservist (been assigned to services since 2006)
* 33 years in the military
* Has 3 sons who he absolutely adores! Takes great pride in his sons and worked very hard through great adversity to see them succeed! Was a single parent for a little while.
	+ Matthew – 22 (will be present), just graduated from college
	+ Miguel – 20 sophomore @ Baton Rouge LSU and Army Reservist (?)
	+ Malcom -18 studying at East Texas University studying
* Hobbies include working on computers
* Going to miss the AF Family and camaraderie
* Best known in the 307th Bomb Wing Family for running the Wing Fitness Program prior to MSgt Alecia Williams taking over
	+ I’ve calculated that he has administered over 3,812 physical fitness tests over the course of his career. That’s a lot of sweaty bodies!
	+ Created the foundation of our outstanding Wing Physical fitness program and has seen this Wing through two compliance inspections.

**AIR FORCE STORY**

* Joined the Reserves because he ran out of money in college and joined the reserves to pay for school
	+ Met his goal finished w/degree in business management

Enlisted straight into the Reserves

* First assignment was 917th Civil Engineering Squadron --- right here at Barksdale AFB, LA
	+ In charge of food services
		- In January of 1991 was called to Active Duty to support Desert Storm for 179 days
			* Insert facts about Desert Storm
				+ And the impact the food services career field had on desert storm
* Upon returning from Desert Storm 924th Civil Engineering Squadron, Bergstrom Air Force Base Texas
	+ He served there not even a year before the unit was closed!
* After the unit was closed, he did a short stent in the Texas National Guard in Houston Texxas out at Ellingden Field
* Saw the light and came back into the Reserves in the IMA program out at Lackland Annex where he was a food services instructor
* Then in 2006 finally came back to Barksdale to be closer to family and home and was assigned to the 917th Services Flight under the command of then, Major Allen Spillers.
* The 917th Services Flight eventually was absorbed into the 307th Force Support Squadron --- making him the longest serving member in my unit. He’s been with my unit every since running our Wing Fitness program and ensuring success by carrying us through two Compliance inspections with excellent results!