

ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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The 4-1-1 on the 4-3-3 during 2005

By Tech. Sgt. Collen Roundtree

Wing Public Affairs

When the people of this country ask, "What have you done for me lately?" the Alamo Wing can pretty much say, "We've seen it all, we've done it all."

The year started with relief missions to Sri Lanka after a tsunami while continuing and ending with support for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The Alamo Wing was always there to answer the call. The calls came from all over. NASA called. The Army called. The Marines called. The Federal Emergency Management Agency called. The Alamo Wing answered every call for help while maintaining regular scheduled missions and supporting the Global War on Terror.

After the horrific tsunami devas-

tated parts of Indonesia and Asia, the 433rd AW was the first on the scene. Even though the holiday season was in full swing, numerous crews volunteered and launched the first C-5s into the area bringing vital, life-saving cargo.

When NASA called, they needed help to transport sensitive atmospheric measuring equipment to accomplish their scientific mission.

When the Army called, they were in need of more skilled vehicle operators to get mission essential supplies to troops all across Iraq over dangerous routes. The 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron sent qualified people to fill the gap until formal convoy training was implemented.

The Army and Marines also needed a place to work from at their deployed locations. As this issue goes

to print, the 307th REDHORSE Squadron has about 50 people deployed to Southwest Asia where they are building and making improvements to a forward operating base. Many

other wing members are deployed, either alone or in smaller groups to do everything from command to aircraft maintenance.

When FEMA called, it was to get hurricane victims either out of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina or, two weeks later, to evacuate Beaumont, Texas, before Hurricane Rita made landfall. The 433rd set up an Airlift Control Element and became the aeromedical evacuation hub for thousands of patients and evacuees.

None of these disasters came at the most convenient time. But, disasters are never convenient. The tsunami in Thailand was between Christmas and New Years. Katrina happened



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Big missions are made of many smaller tasks. Senior Airman Marquis Gladney, a loadmaster with the 68th AS, takes on the small, essential job of tying down equipment during one of the many massive post tsunami relief operations that started out the year.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Lt. Col. Laurie Hall, 59th Medical Wing (left), and Maj. Dianne Wallcut, 433rd Medical Squadron, both nurses assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, treat and comfort Army Spec. Edward Terrel in the Balad Air Base, Iraq, Air Force Theater Hospital emergency room.

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Alamo Wing

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Happy Holidays: A time for family reflection



By Col. John Fobian

Wing Commander

This year has been full of important accomplishments for the 433rd Airlift Wing. Throughout daily operations, real-world taskings, humanitarian assistance and demanding inspections, the true spirit of our Citizen Airmen was very evident.

The next year will be just as challenging as any in the past. We will support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in addition to other Air Expeditionary Force requirements. We'll continue to prepare for Wing inspections and exercises along with our unit annual tour deployments. We'll continue to prepare for the opening of the C-5 schoolhouse.

The professionalism and dedication to the mission demonstrated by every

member of the Alamo Wing are key factors contributing to our success. An equally essential element of our success is the unwavering support and sacrifices made by your families and employers, without which your participation would be difficult, if not impossible.

Remember our Reservists and their families separated by duty during this holiday season. Our prayers are with them for a safe return.

Traditionally this is a time for us to celebrate the holidays with family and friends and to remember what is truly important to each of us. I encourage you to take some time away from work to spend with your loved ones and to revitalize yourself for the year ahead.

I ask that whatever you do, do it safely. Have a plan for risk management. If you drink, don't drive. Be especially careful when traveling because not everyone will be as safety conscious as you.

Along with my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of your hard work, Kim and I wish each and every member of the Alamo Wing family a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous New Year. 🏠

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle Von Seggern

Alamo Wing Chaplain

"We always thank God for all of you... We continually remember, before our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3

Let the words be written in letters as big as Texas: Thank-you. Thank you dear Lord, for the women and men of the Alamo Wing, our attached units and their precious families. Thank-you, dear Lord, for their dedication to duty and

sacrifice for freedom. Thank you dear Lord, for the spirit of kindness, support and teamwork that lives in every area of Alamo Country

May God reach down from Heaven above and touch every one of you and your families with His miracle power. God bless you this holiday season as you celebrate His love and His appreciation for you and your service to your nation. Let us all pause to especially say "Thank you" to the Good Lord.

Electrical shock: City Public Service provides approved tips to combat rapidly rising winter utility bills

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

Winter utility bills may be a shock to consumers this year. City Public Service warns heating bills this winter may be up to 50-percent higher than last winter.

“Supply-and-demand problems such as recent hurricanes that pushed the cost of gasoline to record levels have had a similar effect on natural gas prices,” said Sylvia Arnold, CPS’s Energy’s director of customer services. “Prices that averaged \$6 per thousand cubic feet (MCF) last winter in San Antonio likely will almost double to \$11.70 per MCF in the heating season just ahead.”

The average home has several air leaks making it less energy efficient. In fact, the amount of climate-controlled air escaping daily from the average

home is equivalent to the amount that escapes through an open 3-foot-square window, said Victor Robledo, CPS official.

Here are some simple steps families can take to increase their energy efficiency and reduce heating bills this winter.

- ◆Have a licensed contractor check and service your heating unit.

- ◆Keep your heater thermostat set between 60 and 70 degrees.

- ◆Place gaskets on electrical outlets on walls that have contact with outside air.

- ◆Ensure there is adequate insulation in the home’s attic.

- ◆Lower water heater temperature to 120 degrees.

- ◆Wrap water lines from water heater to house with water heater blankets.

- ◆Place heavy curtains on windows.


- ◆Let dishes in the dishwasher air dry.

- ◆Keep doors and windows closed when not in use.

- ◆Keep lights turned off when not in use.

Although natural gas prices are rising, it is still about 20 percent cheaper to heat your home with natural gas than with electricity, said Mr. Robledo. Also, natural gas heat comes out of the vents at about 95 degrees as opposed to the 73 degrees of electric heat, so it feels more comfortable and heats more quickly.

Every degree your heating thermostat is set above 70 can add about 8- to 10-percent to your monthly heating bill.

CPS encourages families to conserve energy this winter because it will “Save you money and help the environment.” 

Holiday season highlights life true meaning

By Lt. Gen. John Bradley
Commander AFRC


WASHINGTON – As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important – family and friends.

During this time of year, we tend to hold our families a little closer, realizing that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss on the Gulf Coast.

It is your realization of what is important, coupled with your dedication to duty, that enables you to serve our great nation so well. You

know the price of freedom and you are willing to pay it. I salute those who have deployed in harm’s way and supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who have worked so hard to assist with hurricane rescue and relief.

As in the past, we face new challenges in 2006 – aircraft conversions, participation in air and space expeditionary force deployments and mission changes to name a few. I am confident you will once again do our country proud.

Jan and I wish you and yours happy holidays and a safe, joyous New Year. We are proud of you and what you do for America. (AFRC News Service) 



Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander Air Force Reserve Command

Safety tips prevent tragedy during holidays

By Don Hall

433rd Wing Safety

The holidays are a very busy time of year. Even with carefully forecasted annual leave, we may find our down time quickly filled with tasks such as shopping, cooking, preparing the home for guests, or preparing for out-of-town trips.

In the frantic hustle to prepare for a fantastic holiday, we can often overlook some significant risks imposed by our change in routine. Consider these suggestions to help make your holiday season merry and safe.

Fire

You should not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room.

◆Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. It often contains metallic materials which can be toxic if burned.

◆Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Toys

Be careful when choosing toys for infants or small children. Be sure all parts are large enough to prevent getting caught in the throat, nose or ears.

◆Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you are giving toys to several

children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep these plants out of reach.

Food

The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. For questions concerning holiday turkey preparation and cooking, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

◆Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers, less than two inches deep, within two hours of cooking. Date leftovers for future use.

Drink

Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcohol. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid

stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief.

◆Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots.

◆Plan a reasonable number of errands. When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items.

◆Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace

Christmas Trees

For many people, decorating the tree is a favorite part of the holiday. The National Safety Council offers some safety tips to make sure a mishap doesn't spoil your holiday season.

◆Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.

◆Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.

◆Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources.

◆Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

◆If you use an artificial tree, choose one that was tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

Tree lights

◆Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.

◆Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs.

◆Turn off lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.


Decorations

◆Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.

◆Read labels before you use materials that come in jars, cans, and spray cans.

◆Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.

◆Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches in reach of small children or pets.

◆Don't hang popcorn chains and candy canes on the tree when small children are present. They may think other tree ornaments are also edible. 

Activities, Air Force Issues, ways to ...

GET INVOLVED

Holiday Sock Drop

Here is a special way to support and show appreciation for all mission essential military members who are working over the holidays.

The USO is holding a Holiday Sock Drop event where these individuals will receive homemade cookies by hand delivery right where they work.

Here is what it will take and how you can participate:

◆ Pledge to bring homemade cookies to the Family Support Office during your December UTA in sealed baggies by the dozen. Our goal is 500 dozen cookies pledged by our 433rd members.

◆ Another way to participate is to help in the stuffing of the stockings at the USO. Stuffing day is the 19th and 20th at the USO downtown.

Deliveries will take place the 21st and 22nd of December targeting all of San Antonio and the surrounding military bases Southwest of San Antonio.

Please fill out the "Cookie Pledge" below and turn it in at the Family Support Office.

Chapel feedback

The Chaplain Service Team would like your thoughts about our ministry and one way we can find out this information is through an AF Form 1270.

Please fill this form out and return it through e-mail to the 433rd Airlift Wing Family Support Office or print out the form and bring it to our area (Building 910, Room 219, "The Upper Room").

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please contact us if you have any questions (Phone: 925-3556).

God bless you and your family.
Your 433rd Airlift Wing, Chaplain Service Section.



Goal \$26,000
Raised \$31,081

In support of our troops and the San Antonio USO

_____ I would like to pledge _____ Dozen Cookies for the Sock Drop event taking place the week of 20 December. I will bring my pledged cookies to the 433rd Family Support Office, the weekend of my UTA in the month of December.

_____ I would like to help on Stuffing Day at the USO on the 19-20 December (Time TBA)

Name _____

Squadron _____

Phone _____

Air Reserve Technician Vacancies In the 433rd Airlift Wing

INTERNAL: Current Civil Service Employees or External Candidates Self-Nominate at

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil

AES

GS-05 Medical Admin. Asst.

GS-06 Medical Admin. Asst.

AMDS

GS-07 Medical Admin. Asst.

AMXS

WG-10 Aircraft Engine Mechanic

AMXS

WG-10 Aircraft Mechanic (3)

MXS

GS-05 Admin. Support Asst.

WS-09 Aircraft Mech. Supv.

MSS

GS-05 Human Resources Asst.

68th AS

GS-07 Admin. Support Asst.

OSS

GS-11 Supv. Loadmaster (Instr.)

FTU

GS-11 Supv. Flt. Instr. FTU

MSG

GS-09 Computer Assistant

EXTERNAL: Submit Application to HQ AFRC/DPC-SEU

AMXS

WG-10 Aircraft Mechanic

WG-10 Aircraft Engine Mechanic

MXS

WG-10 Aircraft Mechanic (3)

MSS

GS-05 Human Resources Asst.

AES

GS-05 Medical Admin. Asst.

GS-06 Medical Admin. Asst.

OSS

WG-08 AC Surv & Flt Equip Rpr

OFFICER

TRS

GS-11T/12 Supv. Trng. Spec.

AES

GS-12 Medical Admin. Officer

Racing against the wind and winning

By Tech. Sgt. Collen Roundtree

Wing Public Affairs

For the second time in a month, members of the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron raced the wind. This time they got a head start.

At 3:00 a.m., the call came. Time to move and fast. Rita had reached the highest hurricane category. People needed to get out of the way.

The team responsible for responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was needed again.

Almost 1,300 patient- evacuees later, and 12 hours before Rita made land-fall, the wind speed at Beaumont Regional Airport was already approaching the 25-knot aircraft safe take-off limit. Two planes were still on the ground loading the last patients fleeing the hurricane's target area. Something wasn't right.

"Colonel Olson was not on our aircraft (yet)," said Chief Christa. "He saw the C-141, the last plane with patients on it, had not begun to taxi. I saw him run to it. We loaded the C-17 and waited. If the C-141 was broke, we were going to have to make a decision."

According to Chief Christa, if the C-141 was unable to fly, one decision involved how many patients the C-17 could get out and if there was time to get them transferred before they would all be stuck. Risks of sticking out the storm were high. There was no shelter at the airport and some of the AE team members would have to stay behind to care for the patients.

Chief Christa was determined to get them all out somehow. But it wasn't the 'no man left behind' motto that caused his determination. It was an elderly man's display of calm confidence in his rescuers earlier in the rescue operation that birthed his attitude.

"I was watching an old man gently brushing his wife's hair in the middle of the airport in Beaumont," said Chief Christa. "She was crying hysterically because she had Alzheimer's and had no idea what was happening. It struck me that he was there by her side in the middle of this chaos. I asked him if I could help he just smiled and said I'll take care of her, you take care of us. With that I resolved no one would be left."

It was down to the last few minutes and the calmness displayed earlier by one man in the middle of the evacuation chaos was no longer in view. Chief Christa said the C-17 pilot told him there wasn't any time left and they had to go. At that moment, relief came running.

"I was never so glad to see Col. Olson running back to our aircraft with his thumb up," said Chief Christa. "The C-141 could take off. One decision better left not being made.


Whether it is war or disaster response, going into a potentially

dangerous area is stressful for those deploying. It is also a major concern for the leadership sending them.

"It is a very tough decision to make when you have your folks (they are your military family) in harms way," said Col. Stephen Foster, commander of the 433rd AES. "But knowing my people and their resolve, even if I would have told them to return home, they wouldn't leave patients there by themselves and without care."

Colonel Foster said there is no difference sending his troops to war or sending them into the path of a hurricane. "There are lives to save and patients to treat," said Colonel Foster about his troops' attitude about going into risky situations.

That attitude is one repeated often during the holiday season "Their feelings for their fellow man are what motivate them to do such courageous deeds," said Colonel Foster.

He knows each would go wherever, whenever they are needed. Even to race against the wind. 

Hurricane Central 2005

Many are familiar with the highly visible aeromedical evacuation role of the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during the hurricane season. But there were many more from across the wing who were also instrumental in the relief efforts.

433rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron worked day and night receiving patients from evacuation flights.

433rd Airlift Control Flight provided command and control functions to enable communication and organization of the massive airlift effort.

433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron provided transportation, fuel, supply and other support on

to keep relief efforts going.

433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provided around the clock maintenance support to keep relief aircraft flying and ready. They also provided launch and recovery support to the many different types of aircraft, military and civilian.

68th Airlift Squadron provided aircrews to fly relief supplies in and evacuees safely out of the devastated areas.

Savers urged: consider new TSP 'L Fund'

New TSP option divides investment based on risk

By Tom Philpott

Special to Stars and Stripes

The number of active duty and reserve members enrolled in the federal Thrift Savings Plan will hit a half million this month. Recent improvements could encourage many more to join, say plan administrators.

In July, TSP began year-round enrollment, in place of twice-yearly "open seasons." Open seasons didn't always coincide with periods of transition, such as boot camp or reassignment, when troops are dealing with personnel offices and opening a TSP account is convenient.

A second, more important change was the introduction in August of "Life Cycle," or L Fund options. The funds will keep TSP savers on the "efficient frontier of investing" by providing "all of the investment return they should get for the risk they're taking," said Gary Amelio, executive director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The board administers TSP for 1.9 million federal civilian employees and military members. While TSP is integral to a healthy retirement plan for many federal civilians, for service members it's an opportunity to save and invest in quality funds at minimum expense. And though TSP is intended to boost retirement wealth, participants can borrow against accounts at attractive interest rates to buy a car, finance college or for a home down payment.

Carl Witschonke, the uniformed services representative to a TSP employee advisory council, provided examples of how the money can grow.

A new recruit who contributes 5-percent of her basic pay each month, or approximately \$57, and earns a

modest return of 7.5-percent annually, will have \$83,000 in a TSP after 20 years. If the member retires, making no more contributions, the account still will climb to \$440,000 by the time she reaches age 60. If the same member serves another 10 years, still contributing 5-percent of basic pay and drawing a 7.5-percent return, the account would grow to \$257,000 at the 30-year mark and to \$658,000 by age 60.

A typical officer will accumulate \$163,000 in 20 years, which would grow to \$643,000 by age 60. If the officer stayed in for 10 more years, TSP would climb to \$483,000 by the 30-year mark and reach \$927,000 by age 60.

Mr. Amelio wanted to address two problems when he took on his position. One was that 52-percent of all assets were invested in government securities, the G Fund, which isn't intended for long-term.

Military savers are particularly cautious, with 57-percent still keeping 100 percent of their TSP accounts in the G Fund.

"It won't provide the kind of capital growth needed over a 20-, 30-, 40-year time horizon to provide a more comfortable retirement," Mr. Amelio said.

His second concern was that TSP investors were overwhelmed by choices and uncertain how to allocate.

"Most participants are not investment professionals. They don't have the time to read up on everything and make intelligent decisions," he said.

His solution to both, Mr. Amelio said, is the new Life-Cycle or "L" funds. To create them, Amelio hired investment professionals to mix five existing TSP funds in combinations that maximize returns and minimize risk based on when investors expect to retire and start to draw down TSP. Full explanations about L Funds are

available in marketing materials and on line at www.tsp.gov.

Soon participants will receive a CD to explain how to shift accounts into just one L Fund and leave it there. The key is professional asset allocation models that diversify investments so TSP investors don't have to, Mr. Amelio said.

For example, enrollees expecting to retire by 2008 are encouraged to move assets to the most conservative L "Income" fund, which initially keeps 74 percent of total assets in the G fund, 12-percent in the C fund, 6-percent in F fund, 5-percent in I Fund and 3-percent in the S fund.


Young investors with 30 years or more are encouraged to move all TSP assets to the aggressive "L 2040" fund. The number is the approximate year of full retirement and, the year the fund matures.

L Fund assets are adjusted daily to maintain the planned mix. Every quarter, however, the asset allocation will be adjusted slightly to become more conservative because retirement is drawing nearer.

"The L funds are particularly suited to young military members who don't necessarily want to make investment decisions but want to have their money working for them as effectively as possible," said Mr. Witschonke.

Mr. Amelio said he expects up to 80 percent of TSP participants to move into an L Fund as they come to know its advantages, the big one being "professional money management for virtually no cost."

To date, he said, military investors are leading the way with 4 percent invested in an L Fund versus 3 percent from among TSP civilians.

For more info on 'L' Funds, please visit: <http://www.tsp.gov/lifecycle/flash/index.html> 

Note Worthy

Promotions



Genevive Cabello, AMDS
Richard Jacquez, MOS
Mary Lopez, MOS



Debbie Ausmus, MDS
Rodolfo Carrizales, AMXS
Michelle Chavful, AMDS
Paul Roberts, AES
James Setter, AES
Brian Stone, ASTS
Jade Villareal, CES
Richard Wilson, AES



Joshua Adcock, 26th APS
Guadalupe Arredondo, 307th RH
Gary Avants, 307th RH
Rafael Colon, 26th APS
Enrique Galaviz, OSS
Enrique Garcia, Jr., LRS
Josefina Gonzalez, MSS
Anthony Gutierrez, AMXS
Shane Hollingsworth, 26th APS
William Marks, MDS
Michael Molohon, 307th RH
Jeremiah Olguin, MOS
Anthony Owens, CES
Michael Paris, MXS
Nancy Reyes, 26th APS
David Reyna, 74th APS
Jorge Rosario, ASTS
Beth Self, ASTS
Christopher Talley, CF
Kevin Uerkwitz, 74th APS
Walter Wilkins, 307th RH



Irasema Campuzano, AMDS
Benjamin Connell, 74th APS
Eric Flores, MXS
Isaac Garcia, CES
Michael Keadle, AES
Dwight Medoff, 74th APS
Esteban Mejia, 68th AS
Michael Muro, MDS
Christopher Mouton, MXS
Felix Salazar, 68th AS
Rolando Valdez, MXS
Sonya Vargas, ASTS
John Wimer, Jr., MXS



Isabel Arias, 74th APS
Evelyn Castilleja, AES
Jeremiah Carlton, MSS
Rogelio Castro, CES
Gilbert Cervantes, MDS
Candice Green, MDS
Adriana Gonzales, MSS
Gabriel Gonzalez, 307th RH
Jeffrey Hall, AMDS
Philip Jones, MXS
Stephanie Lopez, MDS
Jennifer Paige, 710th IF
Janice Penuelaz, AMDS
Adrian Sandoval, ASTS
Timothy Thornton, SFS



James Bales, AMXS
Jennifer Hines, 74th APS
Donald Lacy III, MXS
Jonathan Litton, 74th APS
Christopher Montes, CES
Ashunda Morrow, 307th RH
Reynaldo Sanchez, MOS

Reenlistments

Senior Master Sgt.

Ralph Banda, MDS
Master Sgt.
Genevieve Cabello, AMDS
Lionel Davila, AES
John Moering, AMXS
Richard Porter, AMXS

Tech. Sgt.

Stephen Brown, AES
Burlson Dustin, 68th AS
Ruben DelaRosa, 68th AS
Victor Morales, AMXS
Wallace Hatcher, AMXS
Leasel Jones, AMDS
Cynthia Hernandez, 68th AS
John Hernandez, AMXS
Albert Hopkins, MXS
Brian Stone, ASTS
David Vargas, Jr., AMXS
Jade Villareal, CES

Staff Sgt.

Brian Everman, AMXS
Chandra Hunsicker, SVF
Monte Cockrell, AMXS
Samuel McDaniel, SFS
Crystal Stringer, MDS

Senior Airman

Matthew Hernandez, AMXS
Annette Johnson, LRS
Keadle Michael, AES
Eddie Paniagua, 26th APS

AF Achievement Medal

Master Sgt. Elizabeth Trevino, OG
(corrected from Nov. 2005 issue)

Col. John C. Fobian, 433rd Airlift Wing Commander, would like to congratulate the following award winners for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2005. The competition was keen and all personnel are to be commended for a job well done. The winners in their respective category are:

Airman Category: Airman Jamie Collins, AMXS

NCO Category: Tech. Sergeant Royal Maxey, TRS

SNCO Category: Chief Master Sergeant Rodney Christa, AES

4-1-1 ... continued from front page

over Labor Day weekend, when many got three days off to spend with family. Rita hit Texas on a Sunday. Through it all, the war on terror continued. Convenient or not, the members of the 433rd AW were willing to sacrifice their time with family to help when called.

Sacrifices reservists from the 433rd AW make are not limited to hard times and wars. Thousands of hours are worked helping the sur-

rounding community. Members and whole units voluntarily raise funds to provide scholarships to children in communities surrounding Lackland Air Force Base. Some members work with Habitat for Humanity building decent homes for low income families. There are mentors throughout the wing volunteering through several organizations to help area youth with sports, school work, encourage reading and writing through



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford
During flight, Capt. Felix Alicea, a flight nurse with the 433rd AES checked the vital signs of an elderly patient being airlifted out of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

a pen-pal program and with life in general. The Wing also donated about 800 reconditioned, surplus computers to area schools.

The commitment to the Air Force mission and to the community surrounding the base did not make it in under the radar. The City of San Antonio and the state Air Force Association noticed.

The Patriot award, given quarterly to an outstanding military member in the community, was given to the



Air Force Courtesy photo
NASA got help from 433rd aircrews, aircraft and aerial porters. Members of the 74th APS helped load atmospheric measuring equipment onto various airframes.

Alamo Wing in the spring. It was the first time city officials chose a unit to receive the award. The Air Force Association chose the Alamo Wing as the top unit in the State of Texas.

When the world needs airlift, it dials 4-3-3. The lines are always open. 🏠



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Colleen Roundtree
Mr. Kenny Vogel, a support technician with the 433rd Airlift Wing, left, and Senior Master Sgt. Steve Knight, delivered computers to the George Gervin Academy. The school received about 25 computers. Throughout the year, about 800 surplus computers were donated to area schools through the Computers for Learning program. Keesler Air Force Base also benefited from the surplus systems after Hurricane Katrina damaged the Mississippi training base.

REMEMBER the ALAMO WING

DID - you - KNOW

The 307th is the only REDHORSE squadron in the Air Force Reserve. The squadron, though part of 10th Air Force, was administratively attached to the Alamo Wing in 1992.

“Inertia is far more dangerous than change.” - Bob Macauley



News Bites...

DEPLOYMENT GEAR REIMBURSEMENT

Some servicemembers who bought their own protective, safety or health equipment will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved Oct. 4. The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001, and Aug. 1, 2004.

The legislation applies to a specified set of personal protection equipment and can be claimed by either the member or by another person on behalf of the member for the member's personal use in anticipation of, or during, the member's deployment for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price, plus shipping, and can't exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment. Servicemembers must have receipts.

Those claiming reimbursement must turn in their purchased gear which will be destroyed, as it may not meet government standards.

For more information, see the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123012043>

BLOOD DONATIONS IN HIGH DEMAND

The U.S. military always needs blood in war zones, and now it is depending on

troops at stateside bases to donate. Many deployed members will be ineligible to donate for up to a year after they return home.

More information on the Armed Services Blood Program is available at www.militaryblood.dod.mil

SOBERING DUI FACTS

Legal repercussions stemming from Driving Under the Influence vary according to location, circumstances and status, but one thing is certain — the penalties, monetary or otherwise, are high.

Servicemembers with DUI offenses could face court-martial and charges under Article 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. If a DUI results in personal injury, an Airman can expect maximum punishment, including dishonorable discharge, confinement for 18 months and forfeiture of all pay and allowances. Without personal injury, maximum punishment is a bad conduct discharge, six months confinement and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

DUIs can also be handled through Article 15 action, with punishments varying depending on circumstance and commander's decision.

Suspension of a driver's license for one year, personal injury lawsuits, vehicular manslaughter and prison sentences can also

accompany DUI charges.

For more information, see the Air Force Print News story

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123012039>

AAFES STARTS ELECTRONIC CHECK PROCESSING

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will start to electronically process checks in January. Now, instead of taking up to three days, checks may process instantly or in one day. The move is so the exchange service complies with "Check 21" legislation.

A person floats a check when he or she writes one for a purchase without having the actual amount in an account — and using the typical three-day processing time to get paid or move funds to cover it. Now, check writers must have funds in the account, or the check will bounce.

Electronic processing is cost-efficient as there is an automatic payment for each purchase.

For more information see the Air Force Print News story <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123012383>

Bosses' Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Trevino, AFNEWS

Col. John Fobian, 433rd Airlift Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sergeant Carlos Massiatte, command chief, welcome reservist's civilian employers back after their orientation flight during the annual Bosses' Day event. Bosses' Day gives reservists a chance to show their civilian employer what they do in the reserve, how the Alamo Wing fits into the Air Force mission and how support from civilian employers is mission essential. The next Bosses' Day is scheduled for October A UTA in 2006. Bosses' day is one way to give civilian bosses a stake in their Reserve employee's military career. For more information on Employer recognition programs, log on to ESGR.org.

Who's Who in the...

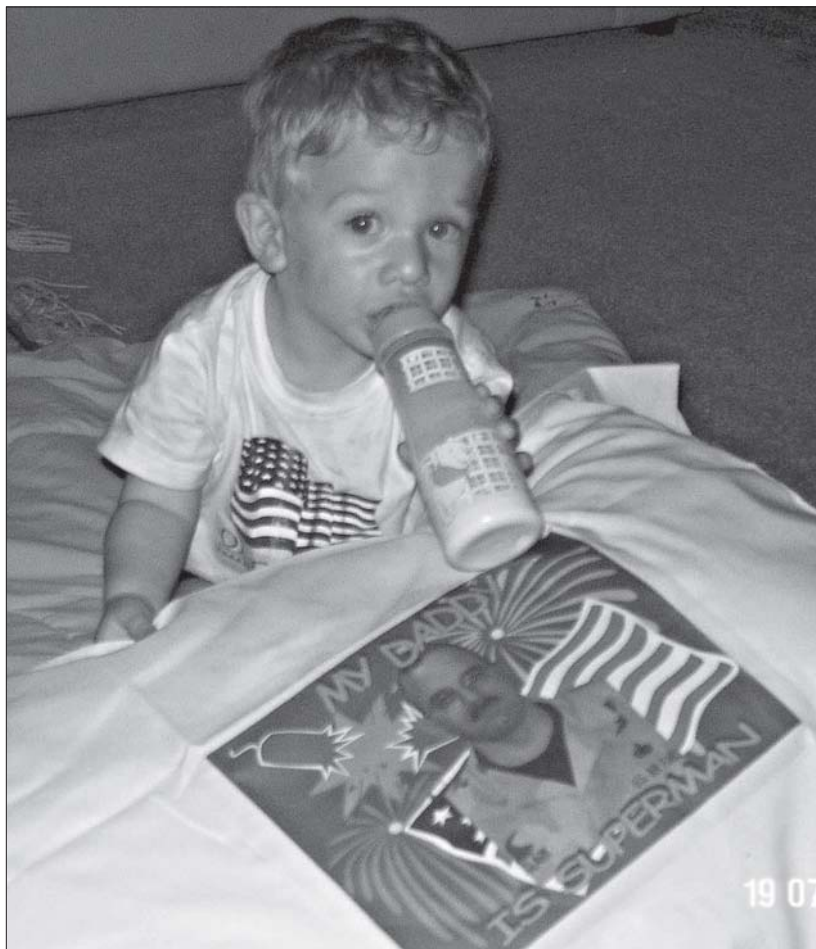


Photo by Maria Colmenero-Clark

Alain Colmenero-Clark, 20-months-old, has daddy close every night even though he is deployed to Southwest Asia thanks to the 433rd Family Support Office. Master Sgt. Lenny Clark is currently deployed with the 307th REDHORSE Squadron. His unit is not due home until the end of January. The pillowcase program allows the children of those deployed to keep their parent close.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Senior Airman Tina Ford is an aerospace medical technician with the 433rd Medical Squadron. Her job lets her work on the small, essential details of medicine.



U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. John Douglas, 433rd Maintenance Group Commander, currently deployed to Kuwait, leaves his mark on a stone outside his deployed office. Colonel Douglas is expected to return in late January.



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford

Tech. Sgt. Mark Fresquez, a parachute and fabric specialist with the 433rd Maintenance Squadron, inspects an inflatable C-5 escape slide after it was used in a recent training exercise.



Reservist repeats AF rugby championship

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Rugby Team plowed its way to a 46-14 victory over the Navy team in the 2005 Armed Forces Championship tournament at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 19-21 October. This was the first back-to-back Air Force championship since the 1989 and '90 tournaments and the seventh championship in the 19-year history of the Armed Forces Rugby Championship program.

The span in the final scores doesn't tell of the hard-won first half, according to Senior Airman Jacob Arbizu, a structures specialist with the 433rd Civil Engineering Squadron. Airman Arbizu is also the only Air Force reservist on this year's championship team.

"During most of the first half the score was pretty close," said Airman Arbizu. The Air Force was down 12-7 with two to three minutes to go in the 40-minute half. Then Capt. Chris Hauck scored a try. A try in rugby is similar to a touchdown in American football except the ball must actually touch the ground. Captain Hauck's play lifted the Air Force team to a 14-12 lead. From then on, it was all Air Force.

The three-day tournament consisted of four games and a championship round. Teams represented the Army,



U.S. Air Force Photo

Senior Airman Jacob Arbizu, 433rd Civil Engineering Squadron, looks to pass the ball in loose play in mid field during the 2005 Armed Forces Rugby Championships. Airman Arbizu, an 8-year veteran of the Air Force team, is the only reservist on the champion rugby Team.

Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Unlike football, rugby is a continuous game with no time-outs, no breaks between plays and only a five minute half-time.

Besides the physical demands of each 80-minute game, Airman Arbizu enjoys the mental aspects.

"I like rugby because of the physical aspect of the sport, but also because you get to strategize," said Airman Arbizu, an eight-year veteran of the Air Force Rugby team. "The coach doesn't decide the strategy all by

himself. You've got to think on your feet."

Airman Arbizu started playing rugby at South West Texas State University. He also plays locally for the San Antonio Rugby Club in his time off from his civilian real estate job and his reserve duty.

Trials and training for the next rugby season began before the championships. For more information on the Air Force and local rugby teams and their upcoming events log onto

<http://www.usafrugby.com/main.asp> or sanantoniorugby.com. 

UTA SCHEDULE

December

A UTA Dec. 3-4

B UTA Dec. 10-11

January

A UTA Jan. 7-8

B UTA Jan. 21-22

February

A UTA Feb. 4-5

B UTA Feb. 11-12

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