

ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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Life flight helps Alaskan infant breathe

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
433rd Airlift Wing

A Native Alaskan infant is breathing easier at Wilford Hall Medical Center thanks to a total force effort by Airmen from Texas and Washington State.

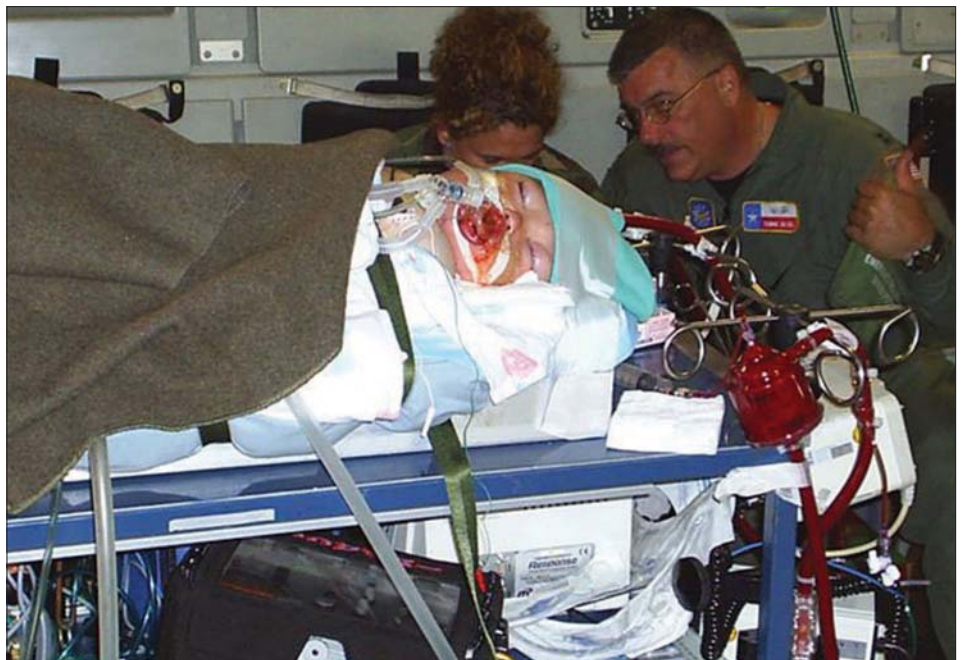
Six reservists from here along with a 15-person Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, or ECMO, team from the center cared for the 20-day-old boy en route to Wilford Hall Aug. 14. The child suffered from strep-B pneumonia and needed immediate care to survive.

The reservists from the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron just finished a local training flight when the decision came down to use an AE crew from Lackland. The original AE crew was delayed by weather.

"With each passing moment, the child's condition worsened," said Maj. (Dr.) Cody Henderson of Wilford Hall's 59th Medical Wing.

The 433rd AES crew wasted no time coming to the aid of Michael Hill, a Native Alaskan. Within a half-hour after the training mission landed, they put away their training gear, grabbed the necessary equipment and were on-board an aircraft bound for Elemendorf AFB, Alaska.

The AE crew gave up their crew rest to help, but the boy's grandmother was more tired than they.



U.S. Air Force Photo

Capt. Mason Besel, 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron nurse, was one of six who volunteered to fly to Elmendorf AFB, August 17th, to give 20-month-old Michael Hill a chance at life. The AE crew, along with a 15-member Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation team from Wilford Hall Medical Center worked together to get baby Michael to Lackland for advanced treatment. Michael's grandmother accompanied him on the flight.

"She slept through the whole flight," said Capt. Frances Robertson, a 433rd AES flight nurse.

Captain Robertson said the grandmother knew that every treatment and procedure was a risk to his life, and she was exhausted from the anxiety and the waiting.

"...Waiting to see the effects of the treatment, waiting to see if the Air Force would help, waiting to see what the next step in this adventure was

when we landed," Captain Robertson said. "She never looked relieved, only worried."

To alleviate her worry and save the boy's life, all the pieces – aircraft, personnel and equipment – had to fit together in a matter of a few hours on the life-and-death AE mission.

"We had everything ready on the plane, all we needed was the baby," said Captain Robertson.

(See Life flight, Page 5)



By Col. John Fobian

Wing Commander

Volunteerism the other Core Value

We all know about the Air Force Core Values; Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We do. There is one more value found in the character of a 433rd Airlift Wing Reservist. That additional value is volunteerism.

Because of this trait, after a full day of training, Reservists from the 433rd AES brought a baby to Wilford Hall Medical Center who didn't have much chance for life without their help.

Medical professionals with the 433rd Medical Squadron volunteered to augment the 59th Medical Wing when they took over the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad Air Base, Iraq. Their skills contributed to the amazing fact

that 91 percent of those wounded in combat survive their wounds.

Pilots and loadmasters volunteer hours of flying time to carry scientific research equipment for NASA, helping them study atmospheric conditions.

People from every functional area of the 433rd AW continually step up to take on an extra duty and make their unit more effective. Some of the things they do are high-visibility tasks that make headlines. Most of it is not. But every task, no matter the size, is mission essential.


Every time you or your coworkers step up to take care of extra paperwork, organize a storage area or come out to work extra days during a surge in operations tempo, you contribute

greatly to this Wing's effectiveness.

It never ceases to amaze me, when I see the level of volunteerism in this Wing, the sacrifices made by your families and the overwhelming support from your employers. When a tasking comes down, you rarely hear the word no.

Like the Core Values, volunteerism bleeds over into the rest of your lives. You coach kids' sports teams, lead Boy Scouts, tutor troubled kids in math and give blood.

Because of this equally important value, we continually meet and exceed goals and ensure mission success.

I am continually proud of my association with the people who are the "Alamo Wing". 

Chaplain's Corner

Repairing Relationships

Chaplain Lyle E. "Von" Seggern
433rd Airlift Wing, "Alamo Wing"
Chaplain Section

"Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,"

Daniel 1: 9

Because we aren't perfect, we shouldn't be shocked when we don't get along with everyone always. At times relationships need repair. Can we survive with damaged relationships? Yes. We can survive with a damaged car, but it makes life miserable. I believe repaired relationships enhance the quality of life. I believe repaired relationships remove some of the stress and mess of life.

God is No. 1 at fixing relation-

ships. He can cause others "to show favor and sympathy" to you, like Daniel. He can give you wisdom on how to cope through groups like your Chaplain Section (please call 5-3556). He can directly answer prayers about damaged relationships.

God be with you as you care about relationships at home and here in "Alamo Country". God bless you as you strive to make this world, your world, a better place to live.

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Alamo Wing

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Civilian employers invited to tour Lackland

Dear Alamo Wing troops,

This year's 13th annual Bosses' Day provides a wonderful opportunity for your civilian employer to become acquainted with the Alamo Wing and the vital airlift mission we perform for our national defense.

If your civilian employer now provides you with the support and encouragement so necessary to perform your Reserve duties, this event is your way of saying "thank you" for their efforts. And if not, Bosses' Day is a prime opportunity to enlighten and educate them about the Air Force Reserve and the key roles you and all Reservists play in your jobs as citizen-airmen.

I strongly encourage you to nominate your boss for this very worthwhile event.

*Sincerely,
Ms. Elsa Martinez
Chief of Community Relations*

13th Annual Bosses' Day at the Alamo Wing November 5, 2005



(Please print or type information legibly)

Reservist's Rank/Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Squadron: _____ Civilian Work Phone: _____

Employer/Supervisor Name: _____ Phone: _____

Title: _____ Company Name: _____

Complete Business Mailing Address w/Zip Code

(please "X" your choice) I will _____ I will not _____ join my boss for the BBQ cookout.

Office rules: Each reservist may submit ONE civilian employer or supervisor; due to flight regulations, ART supervisors are not qualified. Completed forms must be received by Public Affairs no later than **Oct. 14th**. Forms may be mailed to: 433 AW/PA, 203 Galaxy Rd, Suite 103, Lackland AFB, Texas 78236-0112 or FAXed to (210) 925-0317. Due to limited seating aboard the aircraft, nominated bosses will go through a selection process and approval by the wing commander for the orientation flight. Those bosses selected for the flight will receive a letter of invitation from the commander informing them of their selection – please do not promise your boss a seat aboard the aircraft. Besides the flight, bosses will receive aerial port, aeromedical evacuation and maintenance shop tours. Reservists may join their boss for the BBQ cookout, immediately following the flight. Your \$9 payment is due in cash or check **NLT 14 Oct**. For more information, please contact Ms. Elsa Martinez at (210) 925-6127.

Deadline Nears

Reservists have until December to register civilian employers

More than a year into a program that requires reservists from throughout the armed forces to register their civilian employers into a common database, more than 75 percent of Air Force Reservists are in compliance.

Though that participation rate in the Civilian Employment Information Program puts the Air Force Reserve ahead of other reserve components, it is still below the Department of Defense goal.

The department wants 95 percent of all members of the Selected Reserve to register their civilian employers by the end of December. To reach that goal, Air Force Reserve Command officials are emphasizing the benefits associated with participating in the program as well as the consequences of failing to comply.

First and foremost, officials said, registering employers into the common database is not voluntary; it is a requirement. People who knowingly fail or refuse to provide their employment-related information, or who provide false information, may be subject to administrative action or punishment for dereliction of duty under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

However, beyond that, officials said, participation in the program provides some real benefits.

With accurate civilian employer information, the department is better able to consider the impact activations and presidential mobilizations have on civilian communities and ensure that reservists who work in critical civilian occupations are not kept in service longer than necessary, officials said. Also, the DOD is better able to inform those businesses that employ reservists of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

About 76,100 members of the Air

Force's Selected Reserve train on full- and part-time duty — ready for immediate tasking from higher headquarters. Since Sept. 11, 2001, about one in three of these people has been called up to active duty. About 2,700 Air Force Reservists are currently mobilized, serving on full-time active-duty status by order of the president. Many others are voluntarily serving on active-duty tours lasting three months or longer.

In a May 9 memorandum about the program, Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander, said he believes the participation rate for Air Force Reservists would be higher if not for system problems during the program startup. He said these problems caused inaccurate data files and an ineffective management tool for commanders.

These problems no longer exist, General Bradley said, and he urged Reservists to register online as soon as possible by going to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm> and clicking on the "Civilian Employment Info Program" link. An air reserve component Web site is in development to streamline this process even more.

Reservists are required to enter their employment status, employer name, mailing address, civilian job title and total number of years in their

current civilian occupation.

Since the Civilian Employment Information Program's inception in March 2004, some service members have expressed concerns about how the data they provide is used or who is granted access to the information. General Bradley addressed these concerns in his memorandum.

"DOD is establishing policy to ensure member protection and that the information collected in the CEI database is used for strategic planning and employer education," he said. "CEI may not be used to force a member to involuntarily serve in his/her civilian skill or to contact employers using any service member's identifying information without the consent of the member."

AFRC personnel officials said access to the information Reservists provide will only be available to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments, including their National Guard and reserve component points of contact. In fact, they said, the information is covered under existing privacy act systems and is closely protected for official use only. Once Reservists have initially entered their civilian employer information into the database, they are required to update it annually.

(AFNEWS newservice story)

Pen Pal sign-up time

The 433rd Airlift Wing Pen Pal Program is looking for new sponsors to write to a group of 3rd graders from J. B. Passmore Elementary School in San Antonio.

To apply, got to www.utsa.edu/mentoring/ and click on *Become a Mentor* then on *Individual Volunteer Mentoring*. Print and

complete the one page application and return it to Master Sergeant Theresa Cauley, 433rd Airlift Wing First Sergeant, or to the Family Support Office. Both are located in Bldg. 909.

For more information, contact Sergeant Cauley at 925-3652 or by email, theresa.cauley@lackland.af.mil.



Survivability

..... continued from back page

One source of strength for the AFTH is the extensive Total Force, Joint, and Combined integration in every squadron here.

“The Reserve brings something unique to the fight,” said Colonel Jaso. “It’s also an opportunity for us to learn about the things we teach about at home. We teach combat medicine and this experience validates our training.”

Unlike some of their active-duty counterparts, all of the 433rd medical personnel deployed here are volunteers with personal reasons for stepping voluntarily into a war zone.

“(It’s because) the real heroes are the guys in the field who protect our liberty with their flesh and bones,” said Colonel Jaso, emotion evident in his eyes and face. “All we can do in return is take care of them when they fall.”


Amazed by the commitment and dedication shown by the AFTH personnel, Discovery Health Channel documentary producer, Robert Niemack said “It’s truly awesome that so many times, even when they shoot us...we don’t die.” 



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Drs. (Lt. Col.) Mark Werner, an active-duty orthopedic surgeon with the 59th Medical Wing (left), and Col. Rene Jaso (right), a general surgeon and commander of the 433rd Medical Squadron, cauterize a foot wound at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq. The extensive Total Force integration is seen in every squadron of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and its AFTH. The facility has personnel from Active and Reserve Air Force Units, as well as, U.S. Army and Coalition partners. The AFTH in Balad is the only facility able to offer neurosurgery within the theater and it is one of only two trauma hospitals in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

Life flight..... continued from Page 1

When the boy and his grandmother arrived, the Wilford Hall team surgically connected the ECMO machine, which functions as an artificial lung.

“The ECMO treatment allows time for the lung to heal,” Major Henderson said. “It’s sustainable longer than a true bypass.”

Staff Sgt. Mary Killingsworth, a 433rd AES medical technician on the mission, said the ECMO personnel, though very qualified for their task, usually are not familiar with patient risks in flight. They operate mainly in stationary locations on the ground.

AES crews, however, are specialists in the effects of flight on the body and are also skilled at pulling the pieces together to satisfy flight safety


and patient care. They made sure the ECMO team understood flight limitations and that the aircrew knew that the boy’s lungs couldn’t handle normal flying at higher altitudes.

Captain Robertson described Lt. Col. Lisa Tank and her C-17 aircrew from the Reserve’s 97th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash., as “awesome.”

“The combination of (Colonel Tank’s) crew and my crew made it possible that everything happened like a nice fluid piece of music,” said Captain Robertson. “The (aircrew members) were constantly checking and asking what they could do to help us. They were deeply focused on the patient and the needs of the aircraft.”

There are several mountain ranges between Alaska and Texas, and the flight plan had to consider the passenger’s condition. The needs of the deathly ill infant required the aircrew to fly at low altitudes to keep cabin pressure from worsening his delicate condition.

Other ECMO facilities could have supported the mission, but each one has a different set-up and a different area of specialty. The lab at Wilford Hall had the specific equipment needed in the boy’s case, said Dr. Henderson.

As of Aug. 24, the boy is listed in stable condition and undergoing care at Wilford Hall Medical Center. 

One day a daughter, two days later ... A new job as 74th APS Commander

By Staff Sgt. Bethaney Trapp
Wing Public Affairs

An executive officer for the 433rd Airlift Wing is embarking on two new life-learning experiences.

Maj. Luis Torres, Jr., took command of the 74th Aerial Port Squadron, Aug. 21. Just days before, on Aug. 19, he and with his wife, Leticia, welcomed a new baby girl, Korina, in Las Colinas, Texas. Young Torres weighed eight pounds nine ounces.

Major Torres isn't the only one headed for new experiences. Lt. Col Gloria Fuentes, the former commander of the 74th APS, is off to attend Air Command and Staff College at Max-

well Air Force Base, Ala.

In addition to balancing all of the changes, he is going through now, Major Torres is ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

"I'm excited, a new challenge for my career path," Major Torres said. "It's exciting to lead people."

Torres will not only have challenges to learn from, being a first-time commander, he will also have to learn how to raise his first baby girl.

Before Korina, the Torres family




Courtesy photo
Major Luis Torres, 74th Aerial Port Squadron Commander and his new daughter, Korina.

had all boys .

"My boys weren't too happy because they wanted a little boy to play with, but they've warmed up since then," he said.

Major Torres and his wife have had a busy weekend with the new baby and the change-of-command ceremony.

"I just regret my wife couldn't be here, she's still in the hospital recovering from the birth of our baby, but I know she's happy that this occurred in my life," said Major Torres. "It's going to be a learning experience on both sides." 

New SGLI changes cost, coverage

By Senior Master Sgt. Ilee Ersch
433rd Military Personnel Flight

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, maximum coverage increased to \$400,000 effective Sept. 1st and allows reduced elections, in increments of \$50,000 or cancellation, on or after Sept. 1st.

All members eligible for SGLI will automatically have \$400,000 in coverage unless they elect to reduce or decline the increase. No action is required by members who elect the full \$400,000 coverage.

The monthly SGLI premium remains at \$3.25 for each \$50,000 of coverage. Therefore, \$26.00 is the new monthly premium for the full \$400,000 policy.

Should a member desire less than the automatic maximum coverage, that member must complete a new SGLV 8286, indicating the amount of coverage desired, and submit it as soon as possible.

If a member properly completes and submits the form before Sept. 30th, they will not be liable for the Sept. premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage. This gives members 30 days to reduce or decline unwanted coverage without charge.

If a member elects to decline or reduce after Sept. 30th, he is liable for the full \$26.00 premium for Sept. and any month thereafter, including the month in which the change is made.

If a married member designates a primary beneficiary for SGLI coverage other than their current lawful spouse, on or after Sept. 1st, the member's spouse will be informed the member has made such a designation.

Military personnel flights will ensure notification is made as quickly as possible, but such notice will not include the name of the actual designated beneficiary.

To help facilitate a smooth transition into the new SGLI coverage, the


following priorities will be followed:

◆ **FIRST PRIORITY** – * Members wishing to decline or reduce coverage. Must accomplish before Sept. 30th.

◆ **SECOND PRIORITY** – Members wishing to change beneficiaries or beneficiary proportions. Can accomplish after Sept. 1st.

* **NOTE:** Air Reserve Technicians who wish to decline or reduce their SGLI coverage, please do so on a weekday.

* Members on temporary duty assignments or school tours, away from home station, must accomplish the new SGLV 8286 with their deployed location Personnel Support Contingency Operations, or PERSCO. The new SGLV 8286 is now available.

Members on TDY must accomplish the new SGLV 8286 at the TDY location MPF. Members on School Tours must accomplish the new SGLV 8286 at the Technical School Reserve Liaison. 

Air Force changes fitness test criteria

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are making a few changes to the physical fitness test used to assess the fitness of Airmen.

In January 2004, the Air Force underwent a major change in the way it looked at fitness. As part of the Fit to Fight program, the service adopted a more stringent physical fitness assessment that measures aerobic fitness, physical strength/endurance and body composition.

Now, 18 months into the program, senior leaders are ready to tweak the assessment to make it even better, said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

“We have gotten together a group of scientists and done surveys asking folks if they like the assessment and are there issues with it,” Dr. Taylor said. “This last year we brought an update to Corona and are now in the middle of updating a few changes to the Air Force instruction that defines the fitness evaluation.”

Updates to AFI 10-248 will include a change in how body composition is measured, a new table for the running portion of the test that takes into account the runner’s elevation, and a change in the number of days an Airman must wait before retesting after having scored in the marginal category.

Under the original fitness evaluation, body composition scores were based on abdominal circumference only. The updated AFI will now direct that body composition also be measured using body mass index.

BMI is calculated by dividing weight in pounds by height in inches squared, and multiplying the result by 703. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 are considered to be normal. Those with a

BMI of 25 or above are considered overweight.

Under the updated AFI, Airmen with a BMI of less than 25 will earn the full 30 points for body composition. For Airmen who score a BMI 25 and above, Dr. Taylor said the results of the waist measurement would be used to calculate their test score.

“That will still be an important measure of their health,” he said. “Waist measure is closely related to increased risk for metabolic syndrome, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Fat distribution is the critical indicator, as opposed to weight.”

For those who score marginal, between 70 and 74.9 points, the Air Force plans to correct the time to retest at 90 days; currently, retest for marginal category is 180 days. This will be consistent with the retest time for poor scores, those less than 70.

Changes to the AFI will also include adjustment for those at high-altitude installations. This applies to those at installations with an elevation of 5,000 feet or greater, Dr. Taylor said.

“We’ll use the formula for altitude calculations recommended by the National Collegiate Athletic Associa-


tion,” he said.

The Air Force continues to look at ways to improve the fitness evaluation and remains committed to the Fit to Fight program, Dr. Taylor said, because the program has proven successful.

“Participation at fitness centers is up 30 percent now,” he said. “And if you go to the field, like in Iraq or Afghanistan, you will find a continued focus on health.”

The assessment is not the focus of the fitness program, but a tool to assess the commander’s fitness training program.

“I want to make very clear that my focus is not on passing a fitness test once a year,” said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, in his Oct. 17, 2003, Chief’s Sight Picture. “More important, we are changing the culture of the Air Force. This is about our preparedness to deploy and fight. It’s about warriors. It is about instilling an expectation that makes fitness a daily standard — an essential part of your service.”

Dr. Taylor said he hopes AFI changes will be made by late August or early September. 



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. — Trainees at the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard technical school here participate in a physical-fitness routine several times a week. Although the fitness standards changed, push-ups are still part of the standard.



Noteworthy



Navy Pres. Unit Citation

Capt. Frances Robertson, AES
Maj. Jorge Garcia, AES
Senior Master Sergeant Royce Cook, AES
Staff Sergeant Lyle Broussard, AES

Meritorious Service Medal

Lieutenant Colonel

John Doherty, 68th AS
Keith Crause, 68th AS
Phillipe Elmers, 68th AS

Major

Andrea Chapman, 68th AS
John Phillips, 68th AS
Terry Spicer, ASTS

Senior Master Sergeant

Mario Pelayo, SFS
Glen Treibs, 26th APS
Jerry Wilson, MXS

Master Sergeant

Victoriano Garza, MOS
Harold Davis, Jr., CF
Leonel Lugo, 26th APS
Maria Robinson, AMDS
David Tavitas, CES
Robert Torres, MOS

Tech. Sergeant

James Circe, CF
Terrance Crozier, MXS
George Tafoya, AMXS

AF Commendation Medal

Captain

Reynaldo DeLosSantos, 68th AS
Andree Hertz, 68th AS

Daniel Martinez, 68th AS
Gary Rocha, 68th AS
Senior Master Sergeant
Mary Britton, CLSS

Master Sergeant

David Luellen, 26th APS
Guadalupe Applewhite, 26th APS
Joseph Burgos, 26th APS
Cynthia Jemison, CF
Donna Miceli, 26th APS
Jared Pittsenbargar, 26th APS
Julio SanMiguel, MXS
Rolando Rodriguez, 26th APS
Rogelio Ybanez, 26th APS

Tech. Sergeant

Barbara Artibey, 68th AS
Brian Burgin, SFS
Eugenio Chavarria, MXG
Preston Curtis, 26th APS
James Delaney, 26th APS
George Frenier, MXS
Jeffrey Henderson, 26th APS
George Hernandez, AMXS
George Hernandez, 26th APS
Cynthia Johnson, CLSS
Ricardo Marin, AMXS
Robert McNamara, AMXS
Marina Swantek, 26th APS
Ronald Vargas, AMXS

AF Achievement Medal

Lieutenant Colonel

John Jones, ASTS

Major

Lydia Chapa-Wilson, ASTS

Betsye Manser, ASTS
Gregory Pfahles, ASTS
Dianne Singleton-Garcia, ASTS

Captain

Stephanie Rodriguez, AES

Senior Master Sergeant

Diane Laube, OG
Vicki Salomon, ASTS

Master Sergeant

David Delgado, ALCF
Timothy Hill, MOS
Victoria Lamfers, MSS
Daniel Lee, MSS
Diana Marlette, MXG
Rosita Navarrete-Flores, MSS
Denee Talamantes, ASTS

Tech. Sergeant

Roger Arevalo, ASTS
Linda Castanon, MOS
Diana Criade-Escobedo, MXS
Javier Gonzalez, MXS
Luis Jaramillo, MXS

The IG Says...

Members should attempt to resolve Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) issues and personal complaints at the lowest possible level using command channels before addressing them to a higher level or the Investigator General (IG).

The immediate supervisory command chain can often resolve complaints more quickly and effectively than a higher level not familiar with the situation.

The IG system should be used when referral to the command chain would be futile or there is fear of reprisal.

Your Wing IG Hotline: 210-925-7111
AFRC Hotline: (800) 223-1784 ext. 7-1513
SAF/IGQ Hotline: (800) 538-8429
DoD Hotline: (800) 424-9098

Reenlistments

Chief Master Sergeant
Tony Valdez, 307th RH
Master Sergeant
Paula Betton-Lovelady, MXG
Marcos Hernandez, MXS
Olga Flores, CES
Julius Murrell, SFS
Raul Orosco, MSS
Ruth Patterson, AW
Richard Perez, CES
Steven Tyler, ASTS
Tech. Sergeant
Monica Adamson, MDS
Gerald Aleman, 307th RH
Robert Ayala, AES
Juan Buitron, 307th RH

Allyson Campman, AMDS
Johnny Castilleja, AMDS
David Chambers, MXS
James Circe, CF
Tracy Eubanks, TRS
Charles Garcia, MOS
Tony Mitchell, MXS
Lorenzo Monreal, 307th RH
Ferdinand Rivera, 307th RH
Staff Sergeant
Daniel Garcia, AES
Oscar Ramirez Iruegas, 74th APS
Jeremiah Olguin, MXS
Francisco Pizana, 307th RH
Matthew Webber, ASTS

Student aide, summer hire leads to Reserve

Photos by Elsa Martinez

Wing Public Affairs

The second annual Student Aide/ Summer Hire Appreciation ceremony conveyed the wing's recognition for these invaluable student staffers who contribute to the mission. But this year's event highlighted another significant fact.

Very often these young hires make full-time careers of the 433rd and the Air Force Reserve.

Since 2002, Rosanne Guerrero, student program coordinator in the 37th Training Wing's Civilian Personnel Office, has recruited and employed student aides and summer hires for the wing and all Lackland agencies.

Ms. Guerrero has observed the expanded roles of aides and hires beyond their normal jobs as minor office functionaries. The 38 aides and summer hires working throughout the Alamo Wing this year performed in a variety of missions.

"Summer hires and student aides have evolved into the wing's 'home-grown' workers," said Ms. Guerrero. "Some students do such good work that supervisors hire them because they've seen them in action and know the kind of work they do."

Unlike student aides, who are part-time federal workers, summer hires get their jobs by simple application for positions that expire September 30th. By that date, said Ms. Guerrero, most students return to school.

If a summer hire performs well, the organization can fund the position on a more permanent basis. The summer hire then applies to become a student aide to fill that new position.

"That summer hire then submits a new resume and proof of college enrollment for the fall semester or senior year of high school," said Ms. Guerrero.

Most student aides are college students working 15-20 hours per week. "Some high school seniors can

leave to work, but it's up to the hiring organization if they want to pay for only 10 hours a week allowed for high schoolers," said Guerrero. "The decision must be beneficial to the student, the organization, and to the mission."

Student aides maintain status as part-time federal workers by turning in a resume and providing a transcript and current class schedule.

Coursework can't include remedial classes, they must carry at least six semester hours and maintain a 2.0 average.

"They are terrific, super fast learners and truly a joy to work with. They unselfishly share their computer knowledge with other (workgroup managers and admins), and just about anyone who has a computer problem to contend with. They have such good attitudes and do their jobs with a smile," said Senior Master Sgt. Maria Acosta, 433rd Medical Group work-group manager. "Customer feedback about them is nothing but positive."

Jessica Mendoza of the 433rd Support Group and Senior Airman Vianca Cantu are Sergeant Acosta's student aides.

Senior Master Sgt. Daryl Bagesse, chief of the 433rd Aircraft Maintenance aircraft support flight, remarked about his student aide of two years, Jonathan Corona, and this year's summer hire, Jose Flores.

"Both picked up real quick on stuff, and they helped out a lot with manning," said Sergeant Bagesse. "They were doing refurb on the aircraft and controlling the tool room. It was a good decision to hire them."

Both students follow

Alonzo Arce, who started as a student aide with Mr. Corona. "Alonzo came into the unit first as a student aide, and now he's trying to come on as a traditional reservist. One day we hope to pick him up as an ART."

Another student aide in Bagesse's charge, Adrian Gutierrez, works grave shift for the unit.

Bagesse is happy with all his young workers. "They're good performers, and I'm impressed with them. They do real good work, work as hard as anyone else and pick it up as fast as anybody else. For the past two years, they've really been there for us to help us. We wouldn't have been able to do it without them, and they all came through."


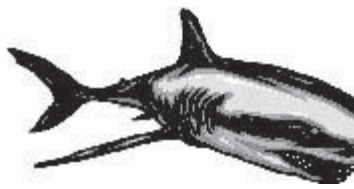
For more information about student hire programs contact Ms. Guerrero at (210)671-1634. 



Photo by Ms. Elsa Martinez
Senior Airman Vianca Cantu, left, a reservist and a student hire with the 433rd Medical Group and Ms. Jessica Mendoza, a student hire perform various function in the 433rd MDG workgroup manager's office.



News Bites...

PASS AND ID

The 433rd AW Pass and ID is closed every Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. for training. Pass and ID opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m. ID card issue ends at 3:30.

GOLF TOURNEY

The 68th AS is hosting a golf tournament to raise funds for the Christmas party. Tee off time is 1 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Lackland Golf Course. Any member of the 433rd is welcome to participate. Register through Capt. Jan Martin (jan.martin@lackland.af.mil) by Sept. 19.

RIDE FOR THE BRAND RODEO

The 4th Annual Ride for the Brand Rodeo is Oct. 7-8 at Mansfield Park in Bandera. Gates open at 6 p.m. the Rodeo begins at 8 p.m.

Discount tickets are on sale for \$5 at the MXS orderly room. Tickets are \$7 at the gate. Money raised at Rodeo provides scholarship funds for area high school students.

DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM

The Air Force Reserve launched the "True Blue" substance abuse program in April. To gain valuable information about the program or to fill out a survey that will help improve the program visit <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil>

SGLI CHANGES

Compensation for the survivors of service members who die in combat and insurance coverage will increase significantly this year. An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 has already taken effect, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage increases to \$400,000 starting Sept. 1.

Service members must elect for a lower coverage plan or the increase in benefits and cost will take place automatically.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news> or the local story on Page 6 of this publication.

C-5 parking only



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford

Members of the Warren County, Ky., Sheriff's Department visit the 433rd Airlift Wing Aug. 19. during a pause in the group's national tour. The Corvette C-5 model was photographed with a C-5A. The car has all the standard police equipment and an enhanced engine with a nitrous oxide tank.

FREE COUNSELING

Effective immediately, Military OneSource began offering face to face counseling at no cost to all active duty, active or inactive Guard and Reserve, and their immediate families. To access a counselor, call Military OneSource, toll free number 1-800-707-5701.

Counseling services focus on issues such as normal reactions to abnormal situations (e.g. combat), couples concerns, work/life balance, grief loss, adjustment to deployment, stress management, and parenting. Persons seeking counseling will receive up to six counseling sessions per issue.

REMEMBER the ALAMO WING

DID - you - KNOW?

The 433rd Airlift Wing was the first Reserve wing to deploy troops to Germany, Hungary and Bosnia for 179 days in support of Joint Operation Endeavor -- 39 members of the 433rd Aero-Medical Evacuation Squadron were deployed.

"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

- Colin Powell

Who's Who in the ... Alamo Wing



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

TSgt. Javier Montanez with the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, performs additional duties for his squadron.



Photo by Tech. Sergeant Collen Roundtree

Technical Sergeant Mike Lopez, a loadmaster with the 68th Airlift Squadron, teaches an Army truck driver how to secure his vehicle during recent training. Sergeant Lopez has been a loadmaster for 18 years.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Master Sgt. Diana Marlette, 433rd Maintenance Group, carries a goodies-filled box as part of the United Services Organization's care package program.



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford

Master Sergeant Patrick Johnson is the medical monitor for the 74th Aerial Port Squadron.

Highest wartime survival rate ever

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

Not far from Baghdad and Fallujah, Reserve Airmen, from the 433rd Medical Squadron, work alongside active-duty Airmen from the 59th Medical Wing to run the Air Force Theatre Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Here warriors, heroes and citizens come to heal.

This deployment is part of a pilot program in mobilizing co-located Reserve and active medical units together. It is the largest Total Force deployment since the Vietnam War. If this model is successful, it will become a template for future operations, according to Col. (Dr.) Rene Jaso, 433rd MDS commander, currently serving his second, voluntary Iraq tour.

While assigned to the AFTH at Balad, deployed medical practitioners and support personnel meld to become the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group. The 332nd was the original unit designator of the Tuskegee Airmen and now shows a wider diversity than ever in its history.

“About 350 Total Force war-fighters from 10 Air Force Bases, the Army and the Royal Australian Air Force work together to provide care for nearly 500 patients each week,” said Lt. Col. Laurie Hall, chief nurse deployed from the 59th MDW.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Lt. Col. Laurie Hall, 59th Medical Wing, left, and Maj. Diane Walcutt, 433rd MDS, both nurses assigned to the 332nd EMDG, treat and comfort Army Spec. Edward Terrel from E Company, 1st. of the 115th, Forward Operating Base McKinsey, in the emergency room at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq. The Lackland group returned in late August from a 120-day AEF rotation.

The AFTH itself is a maze of connected, green tents. Inside the tents are a fully-equipped emergency room, four wards, three intensive care units, three operating rooms, a dining facility, a pharmacy and the technology to treat the sick and injured throughout the region.

“(But) It’s not about the tents,” Col. Russ Turner, 332 EMDG commander, said, “It’s about the people, and miracles happen here.”

One of those miracles, documented by statistics released by the Air Force

Surgeon General, is the fact that 91 percent of all soldiers wounded in battle survive.

The people working at the AFTH play a significant role in this high survival rate, as it is one of only two trauma hospitals in the Central Command Area of Responsibility, the only neuro-surgery capable hospital in the AOR and is the gateway for aeromedical evacuation to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

(See Survivability, Page 5)

UTA SCHEDULE

September
A UTA Sept. 10-11
B UTA Spet. 17-18

October
A UTA Oct. 1-2
B UTA Oct. 15-16

November
A UTA Nov. 5-6
B UTA Nov. 19-20

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