

ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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ATA Hall of Fame honors humble AES chief

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Treviño

Wing Public Affairs

Most people inducted into any hall of fame glow with pride, hold media conferences, shake hands, get their photos taken and work for hours on acceptance speeches. But not Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa, an honorable, yet humble man, assigned to the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, who prefers to shy away from such notoriety.

Even as he is enshrined into the Airlift Tanker Association Hall of Fame with such distinguished company as Staff Sgt. John L. Levitow, Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner and Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, Chief Christa maintains the concept that the team is more important than any single person. Fittingly, Chief Christa goes into the hall of fame as one of eight aeromedical evacuation professionals highlighted to represent the entire military aeromedical evacuation team.

"It's about the cumulative effort of AE," the chief said. "It's not about any one of us."

The members of the team and the success of the mission are two other important aspects of ATA Hall of Fame recognition.

"Our mission is outcome based," Chief Christa said. "It's about the wounded. It's not about the pilot, loadmaster, the nurse or the medical technician. It's about the patient. The

hero is the patient."

Brig. Gen. Byron Hepburn, an ATA member and flight surgeon, nominated the entire career field for its teamwork and its ability to travel anywhere to accomplish a mission with the assistance of long range aircraft and their crews.

"Today's AE system is a group of dedicated professionals from active, Reserve and Guard units," the general said. "The AE mission rolls forward seven days a week around the globe."

Each of the eight aeromedical evacuation professionals highlighted for the hall of fame had incredible missions that singled them out. Chief Christa was selected because of his work during Operation Enduring Freedom and more so for his efforts during Hurricane Katrina rescue missions.

Working out of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, he coordinated more than 70 airlift missions. His pinpoint accurate judgment and foresight expedited solutions to changing mission needs in support of the historic evacuation of 2,300 critical patients and 60 emergency medical missions in 96-hours, saving countless lives, according to the nomination. And according to the chief, the typical shift lasted 36 hours.

"I just worked until I knew I



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa at the Airlift Tanker Hall of Fame.

couldn't," the chief said. "But I worked no more than anyone else."

Normally, a bronze bust of the inductee is placed in Mobility Memorial Park at Scott AFB, Ill. This time, a plaque is displayed with a photo. The photo is set at dusk. A parked ambulance with patients is being offloaded and carried by a silhouetted medical team up a cargo ramp of an evacuation aircraft about to take off for a hospital at a safe haven. A sense of urgency and teamwork is conveyed in the photo, with the evacuation aircraft racing not just against the setting sun falling into darkness, but against death.

"We wanted to pick something that shows the mission without the faces," Chief Christa said. "It's about the mission and not about any of us. No one person could take credit for what we do." 

Last Print Issue!

Alamo Wing

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It's Game Time!

Brig. Gen. John C. Fobian

Wing Commander



The activities in preparation for the upcoming Wing Operational Readiness Inspection have been intense. Checking and rechecking to ensure all of the warfighters and equipment are good to go. The entire Wing has been involved to get the job done. Remember what I believe are the four key elements to winning—Attitude, Communications, Teamwork and Safety always.

We're ready to fight. Bring it on!

Once the intensity of the ORI is over, I encourage you to take some time away from work to spend with your loved ones and to revitalize yourself for the year ahead. Celebrate the holidays with family and friends and remember what is

truly important to each of us.

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

I ask that whatever your holiday activities involve, do it safely. Have a risk management plan. If you drink, don't drive. Be especially careful when traveling because not everyone will be as safety conscious as you. The professionalism and selfless commitment to the mission demonstrated by every member of the Alamo Wing are vital to our success. An equally essential element to our success is the unwavering support and sacrifices made by your families and employers, without which your participation would be difficult, if not impossible.

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

Tackle the ORI on a personal level

By Senior Master Sgt. Armando Perez

Wing Safety

The 433rd Airlift Wing stands poised and ready to support contingencies anywhere at any time. Alamo Wing members know, if needed, they'll get to where the action is quickly and get the job done safely.

But is every wing member as ready for the Operational Readiness Inspection? Is the mission-ready mindset the same as it is for any other deployment? It needs to be.

It takes everyone working together to make this happen safely. Safety is paramount anytime you are working here at home, at a deployed location or during any exercise.

Think Operational Risk Management. Each Alamo Wing member is expected to practice ORE on a personal level. All

it takes is one preventable mishap to ruin our record of success. There will be lots of things happening during this event, both here and at the forward location.

That means the wing depends on each person's skills, training and ability to make the grade and to perform safely, keeping that grade from slipping unnecessarily and, most of all, sparing anyone from a needless injury.

Don't forget the wingman concept. Look out for your wingman; don't let them get hurt.

All of us are safety officers. We can "Knock it off" if we feel something is not right. Be open minded and able to accept the same feedback for yourself.

If you have any safety questions, ask your supervisor or contact Wing Safety at 925-7324. 🏠

New annual 90-minute training plan begins

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Air Force leaders released details about the new annual training requirements program for the Total Force.

As of Oct. 15, all Airmen will use the new "block instruction" plan combining nine ancillary training courses into three, 30-minute blocks of training, saving more than 6 million man hours every year.

"This is a huge win for the entire Air Force," said Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "By tightening up our ancillary training requirements, we've returned vital time to all Airmen. Airmen's time is a critical commodity as we reduce end strength while continuing to focus on our war-fighting efforts."

The new training blocks satisfy all requirements for the following subjects:

- **Information Protection** covers information security, NATO security, information assurance, records management, as well as the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts

- **Force Protection** deals with pro-

tection from terrorism Level 1 training - **Human Relations** entails combating human trafficking, suicide awareness and violence prevention

The three training blocks must be completed once per year to meet minimum requirements. Timing depends on when training was last taken, or as directed by local commanders, according to Maj. Joel Elsbury, Air Force deputy chief of training policy and development.

"For example, an Airman who took information awareness training in January this year and all other Information Protection (training) in April would take the new information protection block in January next year," the major explained. "The Airman becomes 'non-current' in information protection in January of 2008. By re-taking the complete block in January, the Airman would become current in all six subjects for one full year."

Airmen who wish to synchronize all of their annual training are encouraged to take all three blocks at one time, accomplishing in just 90 minutes what

once took more than eight hours to do, Major Elsbury said.

Airmen can access the training through the Advanced Distributed Learning Service Web site directly or through the link on the Air Force Portal.

Although the ADLS is the preferred method, units can deliver the training blocks "off-line" as needed. If the off-line delivery method is used, unit training managers must manually upload course completion data into ADLS to ensure credit. Reserve units also have the option of tracking completions through ReserveNet.

While this effort is intended to maximize unit effectiveness, intelligent and sensible training remains an indispensable responsibility of the Air Force, said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

"When local conditions or mission requirements demand additional or different training, commanders retain their discretion to provide that training as needed," General Brady said.

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle Von Seggern, 925-3556

Alamo Wing Chaplain

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4: 6

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come for your desires than battle within you?

You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

James 4: 1-2

Add anxiety, fights, quarrels, desires and a million other things and it equals stress.

According to Dr. Frank Minirth, "Stress is a

state of physical, mental, or emotional tension caused by external conditions. A stressor (an external event that affects the individual) is the person, thing, or event that causes us to feel stressed."

Some signs of stress: depression, mood swings, outbursts of anger, sleep problems, increased crying, high blood pressure and coronary heart disease.

Don't ignore stress. Find better ways to manage stress. Please call your Chaplain Service team to talk about your stress and stressors! We offer confidentiality and if you want, we will pray with you and for you.

Your life and health are truly worth taking the time to seek help. God bless you for doing something. As I once read: "How can you get to the top of an oak tree? Start climbing or sit on an acorn and wait." 

TSP contribution limits set for 2008

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board has announced that 2008's elective deferral limit for regular TSP contributions is \$15,500, which is the same for 2007.

Contributions for the catch-up plan will remain at the same \$5,000 limit set in 2006 and 2007.

"TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "It's a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans."

TSP gives investors the opportunity to lower taxes each year they contribute. Taxes are deferred until the employee withdraws after retirement.

"Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck, so you never have to think about it. That makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate," said Ms. Thomas.

TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions and are separate from regular TSP contributions. For those who are eligible, catch-up contributions provide a way for individuals to secure their retirement if they began investing later in their careers.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, civilian and military employees must be age 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction from pay occurs. They must also be in a pay status and be able to certify they will make (or have made) the maximum "regular" employee contributions of \$15,500 to a TSP or other eligible account by the end of 2008. "Other" eligible accounts include uniformed services TSP accounts or other eligible employer plans, such as 401(k)s. To be eligible, employees cannot be in the six-month noncontribution period following a financial hardship in-service

withdrawal.

Catch-up contributions automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or when the maximum catch-up dollar limit for the year is reached, whichever comes first. Eligible employees must submit a new election for each year they wish to participate.

Regular TSP contributions stop when an employee's contributions reach the annual maximum limit and then automatically resume the next calendar year.

Investing in TSP is not limited to just stocks. People can choose safer government securities or invest in the Lifecycle Funds.

TSP for Military Members

-- Airmen can contribute any whole percentage of basic pay, as long as the annual total of the tax-deferred investment doesn't exceed \$15,500 for 2008. As long as they contribute from basic pay, Airmen can also invest all or part of their bonuses, special pay or incentive pay. Members may enroll in December; however, requested actions will not update until Jan. 1.

-- Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$46,000 in annual contributions for 2008. The \$46,000 total includes tax-exempt combat zone contributions and regular deferred contributions.

-- Military members can enroll or change their regular TSP contribution amount through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or by filling out a TSP-U-1 Election Form at local military personnel flights and finance offices.

-- Catch-up contributions can also be made at those offices by filling out a Form TSP-U-1-C, TSP Catch-Up Contribution Election.

-- Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the investment funds) can be

made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine (877) 968-3778 for employees in the United States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada. Others can call (404) 233-4400 or log onto the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/> by using their account access.

-- For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Personnel Center at (800) 616-3775 (press 1, press 1, press 1, and follow the prompts).

TSP for Civilians

-- Civilians can contribute any whole percentage of their basic pay or a whole dollar amount each pay period to a regular TSP account; this amount is subject to the \$15,500 annual maximum for 2008.

-- Air Force-serviced civilians may submit regular TSP enrollment elections or changes at any time. Contributions will automatically continue into 2008 for those already in TSP, so it is not necessary for people to submit an election unless they wish to change the amount of their bi-weekly contributions. The contribution on pay date Jan. 11, 2008, will apply towards the 2008 annual maximum.

-- Regular TSP enrollments, changes, or catch-up contribution enrollments submitted between Dec. 9-22 will be effective Dec. 23 and reflect on pay date Jan. 11, 2008. Elections submitted between Dec. 23 and Jan. 5 will be effective Jan. 6 and reflect on the Jan. 25 pay date.

-- When submitting catch-up contribution elections, employees need to designate a whole-dollar amount to contribute each payday rather than the annual maximum of \$5,000. Do not designate an amount that exceeds net pay or payroll will not withhold any TSP contributions. To spread catch-up contributions evenly over the year, divide the total contribution (up to \$5,000) by the number of pay dates

(See TSP talk, 6)

ALAMO WING

Work seldom quits around here; Only Mother Nature's blow can KO wrenches

By Airman Steven Jorgenson

Wing Public Affairs

The 433rd Maintenance Group's flightline is a busy place to work. Workers there maintain, fix or replace gears, brakes, engines and other parts on the C-5 Galaxy, allowing the aircraft to stay air-worthy.

In addition to aircraft maintenance, the flight line also hosts the Air Force's C-5 Galaxy Formal Training Unit. At least one C-5 a day must be continuously ready for static training. Despite the regularity of work, anything can change on nature's whim.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Jesse Hinojosa, pro-superintendent of the 433rd Maintenance Group, weather can put great strain on the mission.

"Especially lightning," said Sergeant Hinojosa. "With lightning, we have to clear the flightline. All personnel have to take cover -- even the C-5s are used for cover."

This effectively stops all work and puts on-time completion in jeopardy.

"It affects how long it takes for an aircraft to be air-worthy - how long it takes to take off," said Sergeant Hinojosa. "Pilots might not get the training they need on time; it may even extend their stay here (at the C-5 FTU)."

Weather can still be quite a headache to those on the ground. Take the crew chief of a C-5 for example. A crew chief takes care of the paperwork, forms and checklists needed to allow the plane to take off, said Tech. Sgt. John Rodriguez, a C-5 crew chief here.

"I have to make sure the fuel is uploaded, that all the plane's 'vitals' are up to par, and all the forms are up to par -- make sure all the red is cleared off the checklists," said Sergeant Rodriguez.

In the event bad weather hits head on, several procedures are followed to ensure everyone's safety -- wind is a big factor, continued Sergeant Hinojosa. For example, any time forecasted winds exceed 25 knots (about 38 mph), all aircraft must be refueled to 100,000 pounds, at a minimum, then secured to the ground.

"When the weather advisory is over, we have to take the time to unload the fuel and prepare the aircraft for maintenance again -- it is a very tedious process," said Sergeant Hinojosa.

In extreme measures, like hurricane force winds, all flyable aircraft and all personnel must be prepared for evacuation at the installation commander's discretion.

This is not just a day-time process, though. The flightline is in constant action.

"The first shift starts the day and gets things ready for the afternoon shift, which gets everything ready

for the grave shift, which works on pre-flight for the next day's morning shift," said Sergeant Rodriguez.

All this preparation is done while C-5's are continuously landing and taking off according to schedule, day or night.

According to Sergeant Hinojosa, the presence of bad weather can hamper this process. When the weather gets bad enough to stop work, the maintainers must wait it out and start back up as soon as possible.

"You plan on something and you plan on something, but anything could happen with the weather, and it changes everything," said Sergeant Hinojosa. "That's just the way it is, and it can happen anytime."

Work on the flight line continues through the night, stopping, only temporarily, for nothing but Mother Nature, one of the 433rd MXG's more formidable obstacles. 

Last print *Alamo Wing* newsletter

This issue of the *Alamo Wing* Newsletter marks the last of the printed, newsletter format publications. In order to cut costs, reduce redundancies that cause excess labor and increase the speed at which news is available, the printed version of the newsletter will no longer be produced in the current format.

There will, however, be a biennial *Alamo Wing* magazine spotlighting top news from the previous six months and providing basic information about all 28 units assigned to the 433rd Airlift Wing. The new publication will act as an introduction product for our new members, civilian employers, distinguished visitors and congressional representatives.

Producing the newsletter used to

take about 30 hours after all content was prepared. That time will go towards posting content to the public web page at www.433aw.afrc.af.mil.

There is internal information wing members need that will not be posted to the web. Information about volunteer opportunities within the wing, family support programs, education benefits, DEERS enrollment changes and other information of importance to only current members and their family members.

That kind of information will now be available through an opt-in e-mail subscription service. Wing members and their families must actually sign up for this information through the new e-mail service. To sign up, send a blank e-mail to: join-433_alamowing@mercury.afnews.af.mil. 

TSP talk

continued from page 4

remaining in the year. There are 26 pay dates in 2008 for employees who submit catch-up contributions between Dec. 9-22.

-- Air Force-serviced civilians enroll or submit regular TSP contribution elections and catch-up contribution elections if eligible, through the Employee Benefits Information System's Web application or the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team's phone system. EBIS is available on the

AFPC Web site at <https://wwa.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/Default.asp> or through the Air Force Portal.

-- Employees can reach the BEST phone system by dialing toll-free (800) 616-3775. Overseas employees need to dial a toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country they are in, then (800) 616-3775. When the phone system follow the prompts. AT&T direct access numbers can be found at http://www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp

-- Additional information about TSP, both regular and catch-up, is

available on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. See Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan located under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. For more TSP information, visit the BEST homepage at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/BEST/?prods3=272> (under Thrift Savings Plan).

The Air Force Personnel Center -- putting the Right People in the Right Place at the Right Time.

For more AFPC news and information, log on to our Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Chiefs spare some time bowling with youth

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Treviño

Wing Public Affairs

The Volunteer Council for Texas Youth in San Antonio, a non-profit organization dedicated to youth in the San Antonio area, held the 14th Annual "Spare Some Time for Texas Youth Bowl-A-Thon". The event was October 27th and ran from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bandera Bowl on Huebner Road. The proceeds benefit San Antonio area TYC programs, i.e. Family Activities, Christmas Cheer, Independent Living Needs, etc. The Volunteer Council hopes to get more organizations from around the city to assist in sponsoring bowling teams for future events.

The 433rd Chiefs have been supporters of this annual event for the past seven years and participated in the 14th Annual Bowl-A-Thon event. Besides all they do in the community, their motivation is always to help at-risk youth make a turn-around in their lives and become law abiding citizens of the future.

Chief Master Sgt. Laverne Vick, grandmother to six boys ages 2 to 13, knows it is important to be a role model for today's youth.. "I am out here having fun, this helps me be an example," she said.

The 433rd Chiefs, as they call their

bowling team, are Gold Sponsors and provide two bowling teams and often times insist that TYC youth make-up part of their team. Thus, the 433rd Chiefs not only financially support the event, but ask TYC youth to actively participate in order to teach and mentor at-risk youth.

Often this is the first time ever TYC youth have ever touched a bowling ball. As a group, they have had a positive impact on TYC youth and are very important figures in this annual event.

The 433rd Chiefs Group is a long-standing asset to the TYC youth event and annually support the Volunteer Council. In June 2007, the 433rd was recognized by receiving the TYC Outstanding Group Award for their

contributions to TYC youth.

Master Sgt. Abel Gonzales, who is employed as a civilian locally with the TYC, says the money raised goes to support the youths in a variety of ways.

"We raise money for the youths to use for General Education Diploma certification programs, money for movies as a reward since we don't get any money from the state for these programs," Gonzales said.

"The community is the best one to welcome them back. It lets the youths know they are a part of us, we don't want them to end up in the adult system" he said.

For more information, contact TYC Community Relations Office at 210.242.7852 or 210.264.77276. 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Treviño

Chief Master Sgt. Laverne Vick (right), LRS, sizes up the pins at a fundraiser at Bandera Bowl for the Texas Youth Commission. Mentors, like Chief Vick, are needed and serve as role models for TYC youths who are rejoining the community.

Pedaling with Pride, 433rd pilot and wife bike to the beach

By Airman Viola Hernandez
Wing Public Affairs

Traveling 150 miles, it sounds like a lot but when you think about riding 150 miles on a bike, the distance seems to grow tremendously. That thought didn't stop over 3,000 men and women from participating in the Valero MS 150 Bike to the Beach fundraiser on October 20 and 21.

The bike ride, which is held annually to raise money to fight the affects of Multiple Sclerosis, begins at the AT&T Center here and finishes at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.

Captain Christopher K. Melton, a C-5 pilot with the 68th Airlift Squadron, and his wife Stephanie were among the many riders. Their ride, however, served a different purpose. Capt. and Mrs. Melton rode as support riders with a group of wounded soldiers recovering at Brook Army Medical Center.

"As a support rider, I offer moral and physical support for our recovering soldiers throughout these bike rides," said Mrs. Melton.

Operation Comfort, an organization that provides support to servicemembers who have been wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq and are receiving treatment at BAMC, formed the team that the Melton's participated with. The team, which consisted of twelve wounded soldiers and Marines and eleven support riders began the ride on Saturday morning at the AT&T center.

"The strength, courage, and determination demonstrated by the soldiers and Marines that I've come to know as a support rider is so inspiring to me,"



Air Force Courtesy Photo

Captain and Mrs. Christopher Melton, celebrate after completing the Valero Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike to the Beach.

said Mrs. Melton.

Captain Melton states that it is the dedication to helping others that the Operation Comfort riders show in participating in the ride that gives him the motivation that he needed to train and complete the ride as a support rider.

"They lose an arm or a leg and yet there is no self-pity, no hopelessness," Capt. Melton said. "They want to help raise money for MS.



Air Force Courtesy Photo

Stephanie Melton, wife of Captain Christopher Melton a C-5 pilot with the 68th Airlift Squadron, takes a break with two riders during the MS 150 Bike to the Beach. The riders are both amputees wounded during the war on terror.

Just watching them come out and ride and knowing they are still trying to do something for someone other than themselves. Its mind blowing," Capt Melton added.

After 10 hours of riding on Saturday and roughly another 7 on Sunday, the ride was completed.

"Crossing the finish line of a 150 mile bike ride is always an exhilarating experience but that doesn't compare to the feeling you have crossing the line as a support rider," Mrs. Melton said.

"These guys are my heroes, riding with them is what made this bike ride important to me.," said Capt. Melton.

"You wouldn't believe the determination of these guys. They were obviously hurting and struggling but they were not going to quit," said Mrs. Melton.

The "don't quit" attitude doesn't stop there, many of the riders hope to return to Iraq after recovery. 🏠



Note Worthy



Top Performers

The following members of the Alamo Wing represented themselves and the Air Force Reserve well by securing top honors in their various technical training during the past months. Congratulations to each for a job well done.

Airman First Class Ruben Morin, 26th APS
Air Transportation Apprentice
Final Grade: 97, Top Graduate

Airman First Class Lee Wiggins, 26th APS
Air Transportation Apprentice
Final Grade: 94, Distinguished Graduate

Airman First Class Donald Edison, AMXS
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 96

Tech. Sgt. Mindy Stifflemire, AES
Education and Training Apprentice
Final Grade: 93, Distinguished Graduate

Senior Airman Leslie Colston, ALCF
Aerospace Ground Equipment Apprentice
Final Grade: 93

Master Sgt. Chandra Martinez, AMDS
Biomedical Equipment Maintenance
Final Grade: 90

Senior Airman Tanyanikka Pugh, AMDS
Medical Laboratory (Phase One)
Final Grade: 93

Staff Sgt. Brian Alt, AMXS
Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
Final Grade: 97

Staff Sgt. Peter Del Bosque, AMXS
Communications/Navigation Systems
Final Grade: 91

Staff Sgt. Clifford Farrell, AMXS
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 94

Staff Sgt. Adrian Luce, AMXS
Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
Final Grade: 95

Senior Airman Alex Granados, MXS
Survival Equipment Apprentice
Final Grade: 94

Senior Airman Matthew Blackstone, AMXS
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 97, Distinguished Graduate

Senior Airman La Chryle Nisby, AMXS
Communications/Navigation Mission Systems
Final Grade: 91

Senior Airman Daniel Rodriguez, AMXS
Communications/Navigation Mission Systems
Final Grade: 94

Airman First Class Cameron Bertling, AMXS
Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 90

Staff Sgt. Stephen Littleton, 74th APS
Air Transportation Apprentice
Final Grade: 96, Academic Achievement
Certificate

Airman First Class Donell Granados, AMXS
Instrument & Flight Control Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 92

Airman First Class Matthew Litney, AMXS
Aircraft Electrical and Environmental
Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 98, Distinguished Graduate

Master Sgt. Justy Ridinger, AW
The Judge Advocate General's Schools
Top Graduate Commandant's Award

Senior Airman Justin Henderson, CES
Utilities Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 92

Senior Airman David Hernandez, CES
Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning Refrigeration
Final Grade: 94

Senior Airman Rafael Sancio, MOS
Maintenance Management Production Apprentice
Final Grade: 99, Top Graduate

Senior Airman Martin Alvarez, MXS
Survival Equipment Apprentice
Final Grade: 95

Senior Airman Matthew Birdsey, AMXS
Aircraft Electrical and Environmental
Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 97

Airman First Class Carol Villamor, MXS
Aerospace Maintenance Apprentice
Final Grade: 95

Staff Sgt. Richard Duval, 556th RHS
Electrical Systems Apprentice
Final Grade: 95

Reenlistments

Chief Master Sergeant

James Powell, AES
Lisa Steffes, AMDS

Senior Master Sergeant

Connie Rubio, AMDS

Master Sergeant

Gregory Blacknall, AMXS
Joe Cavazos, MXS
Michael Irizarry, 556th RHS
Wayne Jenerou, AMXS
John Pearson, AMXS

Technical Sergeant

David Alsip, MXS
Ruben Delarosa, 68th AS
Scott Devora, 26th APS
Jonathan Elder, AMXS
Rita Froehlich, MXS
Sergio Perez, MDS
Irvin Russell Jr., CES
Karen Whaley, MXS
Tony Flores, CES
Sheree Griffin, 68th AS
Benjamin Hart, 556th RHS
George Meza, MXS

Staff Sergeant

Mitchell Anderson, MXS
Kashon Mattocks, AMXS
Adan Moreno, LRS
Randy Reyes, MDS
Jason Strawn, SFS
Sterling Ward, SFS
Kevin Washington Jr., MXS

Senior Airman

Tony Flores, CES
Sheree Griffin, 68th AS
Benjamin Hart, 556th RHS
George Meza, MXS

Wing Quarterly Award Winners

Brig Gen John C. Fobian, 433rd
AW Commander, would like to
congratulate the following wing
third-quarter award winners:

Airman

Senior Airman Martin Alvarez, Jr., MXS

NCO

Tech. Sgt. Adrian Stringo, LRS

Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Perry Henry, MSS

Tuskegee Airmen still inspire

Alamo Wing maintainer comments on recent convention

By Master Sergeant Vincent Moore
—433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

History is sometimes easy to forget, because it's history. However, some people and some events should be remembered because the impact and struggles they represent changed our lives forever. That is the case of the Tuskegee Airmen.

While attending the Annual Tuskegee Airmen Conference, I learned new facts about the daily struggles that the men faced. Like the events that took place when 162 of the Tuskegee officers attempted to enter a "whites only" officers club. The officers were arrested and then later refused to sign letters acknowledging they had done anything wrong. They believed that members serving in the military should all have the same rights.

I think the most important thing I learned though, is that the Tuskegee Airmen weren't about black and white but about achieving a goal. They had an objective to reach, to prove that African Americans were as intelligent and courageous as others. They overcame many obstacles to meet their goal, including racism, discrimination and the effects that those things can have on a family.

Today, the Tuskegee Airmen still desire for African Americans to achieve success. While at the confer-

ence, I attended an Executive Senior Leadership panel I felt was beneficial because it consisted of men and women who are leaders and gave an idea of the struggles people in different situations face in order to achieve a goal.

One such struggle can be money. At the conference, a financial seminar called Money Matters was held. I found this to be one of the most rewarding events I attended because I think everyone would like to have advice on how to live life with the least possible amount of debt.

While at the conference I also had the privilege of meeting retired Lt. Col. Granville Coggs, one of the Tuskegee Airmen. Meeting Colonel Coggs was an inspiration to me because he has achieved so much in his life, earning military badges for aerial gunner, aerial bombardier and multi-engine pilot. He didn't stop there though; he served in the Air Force Reserve until 1985 and is now a doctor practicing radiology at Brooke Army Medical Center and a medalist in the Senior Olympic Games.

There were so many opportunities, during the Tuskegee Airmen's Conference to learn how to better yourself and achieve your goals from people who were still achieving goals after so many years. 

Tuskegee trivia

During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a bomber in their more than 200 escort missions. They also flew 15,000 combat sorties including more than 6,000 for the 99th prior to July 1944), destroyed 111 German airplanes in the air, 150 on the ground, 950 railcars, trucks, and other motor vehicles and sank one destroyer by P-47 machine gun fire.

The group painted the tails of their aircraft red and earned the nickname "Red Tails."

The numeric designator for the famed Tuskegee Airmen was the 332nd Fighter Wing. That number is in use today at Balad Air Base, Iraq, with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Seven of the original Tuskegee Airmen, listed on official graduation rosters, were from San Antonio.

Major decorations earned by the men of the 332nd FW included; 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, eight Purple Hearts and 14 Bronze Stars.

-- Information found at www.tuskegeearman.org

Remember the Alamo Wing

In December of 1979, Alamo Wing aircrews began flying humanitarian missions into Nicaragua after disastrous floods hit the tiny Latin American country

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

————— Abraham Lincoln



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Trevino



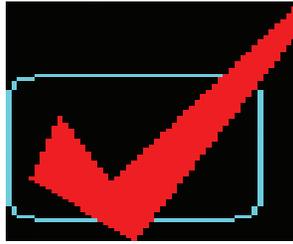
Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Trevino



Photo by Capt. Bruce Hill



Photo by Capt. Bruce Hill



your Buddy

During the past year, everyone in the 433rd Airlift Wing practiced and prepared for this year's Operational Readiness Inspection. The ORI, Dec. 9-16, is a formal way of gauging the wing's readiness, capabilities and operational performance.

ORI players and alternates spent their November training days participating in firearms refresher courses, donning gas masks and getting ready physically and mentally for the challenge ahead.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos Trevino





News Bites...

CCAF launches new Web-based tool

Community College of the Air Force officials launched the Credentialing and Education Research Tool, or CERT, a Web-based tool that provides students education and national certification information related to Air Force occupational specialties. CERT is an online research tool that links CCAF degree programs with nationally-recognized professional certifications relevant to specific career fields.

Using the tool, Airmen can find information related to their particular CCAF degree and career progression goals. They can investigate equivalent civilian jobs, professional certifications, professional organizations and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support testing opportunities.

In addition to assisting current Airmen, the CERT program can help prospective Airmen better understand what the Air Force has to offer.

For more information, visit <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp>

DFAS TO SEND 2007 TAX INFO

ARLINGTON, Va. – Military service members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) can expect to receive their 2007 tax statements beginning in December 2007.

DFAS customers with myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>) access will be able to retrieve their tax statements electronically up to two weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery.

Using myPay to access tax statements eliminates the preparation and mailing costs incurred with the traditional distribution methods. Combined with the earlier availability of statements online, this makes myPay a better option for many DFAS customers and the Department of Defense.

If customers have forgotten their personal identification number (PIN) or wish to open a myPay account can do so on the myPay Web site.

RESERVISTS HELPING RESERVIST

Many of our members may be looking for a business, service or some sort of help and would rather use and benefit someone they know and trust. So those of you who have a business, special skill, talent or service can now offer your products, services or helps at a discounted or reasonable value to our reservists and their families. If you are interested in promoting your business to the 433rd members, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Office and we can add you to our list or send you the application via email.

If you currently have a listing in the RHR Directory, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Office with an interest of continuing your listing and/or updating your current information.

RHR Booklet is advertised in the monthly electronic Grapevine sent out by the Airman and Family Readiness Office monthly.

PAY INFORMATION & LINKS:

DFAS Home Page:
<http://www.dfas.mil/index.html>

Military Pay:
<http://www.dfas.mil/militarypay.html>

Civilian Pay:
<http://www.dfas.mil/civilianpay.html>

Travel Pay:
<https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/>

TSP web page:
<http://www.tsp.gov/perdiem/faq.html>

Free Federal Handbooks:
<http://www.federalhandbooks.com/>

Quick Tips for Auto Injectors:

Use only for nerve agents

Use the small injector first

Hold injector in place for 10 seconds

After use, pin it to a pocket

Repeat steps with large injector

UTA SCHEDULE

December
A UTA December 8-9
B UTA December 15-16

January
A UTA January 5-6
B UTA January 26-27

February
A UTA February 9-10
B UTA February 26-27



Who's Who in the...



Below: Staff Sgt. Mark Lewis, 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, checks his equipment before conducting a training session. Sergeant Lewis teaches new employees the basics of the C-5 Galaxy.



More than 20 servicemembers return home from a six-month deployment to Iraq. The Airmen are all members of the 556th RED HORSE Squadron, a unit of specialized combat civil engineers who build roads, runways and buildings all over the world.

ORI



MOST WANTED



Happy Holidays!



433rd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs Office

