

THE *Airstream*

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Patriot Penguin puts Airmen
to the test... Page 6 & 7

Inspector General systems benefits your organization

Col. Michael Henry
Inspector General

These last few years have brought various Inspector General issues of misconduct and fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) to the attention of national media. Whistleblowers seem to be popping up all over, as well as allegations of misconduct and FWA on some very high dollar/high visibility programs.

Some of the most notable recent whistleblowers include the following:

- Bunny Greenhouse of the Army Corps of Engineers whose allegations led to the investigation of the Halliburton contracts in Iraq.

- Army Specialist Joseph Darby who provided photographic evidence to expose the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

FDA drug safety expert David Graham who blew the whistle on FDA's approval of unsafe drugs, especially Vioxx.

- Jane Turner of the FBI who discovered and reported widespread FBI thefts of valuable property from the Ground Zero site.

These people share at least one common trait besides courage. They're all insiders with the organizations they blew the whistle on, and most have over twenty years seniority. In every case, the allegations had been tolerated or sanctioned by their organization.

Misconduct and FWA are not rare, nor do they only happen in foreign countries. Ever heard the name Darleen Druyun? The civilian equivalent of a three-star general, she was the former Air Force contracting chief recently convicted of secretly steering billion dollar contracts to Boeing, in return for Boeing giving her and her family members high paying jobs. The Air Force's credibility to conduct major contract competitions with integrity has been seriously damaged, and the acquisition reform that allowed more streamlined development and fielding of weapon systems to benefit the war fighter, may have to change again to include more preventive checks and balances.

With the increase in worldwide operations tempo, there are just many more opportunities for misconduct and FWA to occur. Missions have to be accomplished, resources have to be consumed, and people have to get here and there. Sometimes, in spite of our best efforts, the attention to our obligation as conscientious resource stewards for the citizens of our country can diminish in the hustle to focus on the mission. Tolerated misconduct

and FWA can become institutionalized as an acceptable way of doing business, causing it to become widespread. An example of this is the Air Force Academy's repeated failure to respond properly to allegations of cadet sexual misconduct. Tolerated and cultural acceptance of the way these incidents were handled by leadership caused repeated mis-handling. The IG system could have served Academy commanders better here, in my opinion.



Col. Michael Henry

So what's the point? Misconduct and FWA are facts of life and no base organization is immune from them. The potential increases with higher opstempo. Every travel voucher we complete provides another opportunity for FWA to infiltrate. It can be subtly institutionalized into the unit culture if rules aren't enforced, or, as we have seen, it can be plastered all over the national news when poor judgment prevails. As military members, citizens, taxpayers and human beings, we are obligated to prevent it, and to act if we learn about it. There can be monetary incentive as The False Claims Act allows you to share in any monetary savings enjoyed by the government as a result of your whistleblowing. But the primary incentive now, and as it has been since the days of George Washington and the Continental Army, is to do the right thing for the American people and this nation by preventing and reporting misconduct and FWA.

I'd like to close by taking this opportunity to say thanks and goodbye to the great folks in the 910th, as I will be retiring in the next few months. It has been my honor, privilege and good fortune to serve with such talented, conscientious people. Any success of mine was due to standing on your shoulders. Good luck in your careers and I encourage you to fully appreciate your time with this unique collection of individuals that make this airbase the jewel that it is. Take care.

In life, with nothing ventured, there's nothing gained

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul R. Milliken
Wing Chaplain

Since the 1960s, "Ultralights," the affordable home-built aircraft helping to satisfy the desire of many people to fly, have crashed with all too-alarming frequency.

The Federal Aviation Administration, however, has chosen to "certify" one particular model, the SR20, because of a single piece of installed "standard safety equipment." It's not an extra-price option, mind you, nor something capable of later being disabled, but an integral part of the plane.

What is that single item?

A rocket-deployed parachute.

In case of an in-flight emergency, an SR20

front-seat occupant can yank on a T-handle and thereby activate a 700-newton-second rocket motor propelling a 35-pound Kevlar parachute from its casing in 1.5 seconds. The device is intended to support the entire aircraft and deliver its occupants safely to earth. These parachutes have saved the lives of ultralight pilots in more than 100 documented cases.

Granted, the return to the ground would still be considered swift – perhaps 1,150 fpm (not to mention in a slightly nose-down position) – the plane would in all probability be ruined in the process.

Remember that project, that procedure you suggested having flopped, and you, along with it, crashed and burned?

Many of us have been there. But most "experts" would concede, the only formula

for never failing, is never trying! Nothing ventured, nothing gained. It's kinda like that poster featuring a small, shelled creature and the words below:



Chaplain Paul Milliken

"Behold, the turtle: the only time it makes any progress, is when it sticks its neck out."

So . . . what was that neat idea you had?

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron welcomes new leader

Master Sgt. Bryan Ripple
NCOIC, Public Affairs

The approximately 120 members of the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron welcomed a new commander during a April 2 Change of Command ceremony held at the Hangar 305 training room.

Maj. Edward F. Malinowski, the senior Aircraft Maintenance officer for the squadron since December 2003, assumed command of the unit, replacing Lt. Col. Peter M. Kazarovich, who moves up to become the vice commander of the 910th Maintenance Group.

As commander of the squadron, Maj. Malinowski is responsible for the on-equipment support of 12 C-130H aircraft and ensuring the training and readiness of squadron personnel for worldwide deployment.

“This is an honor for me,” said Maj. Malinowski. “I’m very glad to have a chance to work with the greatest aircraft maintenance people in the C-130 world. These fine men and women have proven themselves over and over,” he said.

Maj. Malinowski, a native of the Chicago suburb of Burbank, Ill., earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Supervision from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., in 1984. He received his commission as a second lieutenant through the Academy of Military Science in 1984 as well. He also earned an Associates Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology, from Daley College, Chicago, Ill., in 1991.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

The new commander commented about how proud he his of the people in the 910th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

In the civilian world, Maj. Malinowski is a National Transportation Safety Board Air Safety Investigator in West Chicago, Ill.

Lt. Col. Kazarovich, commander of the squadron since April 2003, thanked the men and women of the squadron for their support during his command and commented on the production of the unit during his tenure.

“We’re now averaging 602 flying hours per month, the highest among C-130 units in 22nd Air Force. This is an average of 33 more per month than our nearest competitor for the last 12 month running average,” he said.

“We’ve supported missions on five continents including Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Joint Forge, Coronet Oak, Silverback Express, and Secure Tomorrow. It has been a privilege to be here.”

According to the new commander, things are going well for the squadron and much won’t need to change.

“We’ll just need to continue to look out for each other. If we do that, everything will be fine.”

Also in attendance during the ceremony was Maj. Malinowski’s wife, Dr. Sharon Malinowski, their daughter, Christina, 14; and their two sons, Ed Jr., 11; and Matthew, 9.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

Maj. Malinowski realizes the importance of the years of experience his people bring to supporting the mission.

The Airstream is published monthly by:

910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office
Youngstown Air Reserve Station
3976 King Graves Rd., Unit 12
Vienna, OH 44473-5912
Voice (330) 609-1236
Fax (330) 609-1022
pa@youngstown.af.mil

910th Airlift Wing Commander

Col. Timothy J. Thomson

Public Affairs Officer

Capt. Brent J. Davis

NCOIC

Master Sgt. Bryan S. Ripple

Public Affairs Staff

Tech. Sgt. Shawn David McCowan, *Editor*
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth E. Sloat

PA Assistant

Tia M. Symcheck

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On the cover...

Staff Sgt. Lisa List, a paralegal in the 910th JAG office, snuck a brief water break during guard duties at Patriot Penguin. According to event logs, her building spent over eight total hours in MOPP4 over the one-and-a-half days. Photo by TSgt. Shawn David McCowan.

Tribulation, Tragedy and Triumph: *The legacy of the 773rd*



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

Lt. Col. Richard Galante said he was moved by the experience of being in Turkey and seeing the actual crash site before the ceremony.

TSgt. Shawn David McCowan **Public Affairs Specialist**

Editor's Note: *This is the final of a three-part series about the people, tragedies and glory of the 773rd Airlift Squadron. Part three looks at the squadron's recent history and looks ahead at its future.*

In April 1995, 15 years after "OLD 215" crashed in the hills of Turkey, the 773rd became a part of Youngstown Air Reserve Station under the 910th Airlift Wing in Vienna, Ohio.

The squadron had been inactivated after Operation Desert Storm in 1993, but reactivated and assigned to the 910th. Colonel Richard Galante was one of the first handful of 910th Reservists assigned to the squadron and was chosen to be the 773rd Airlift Squadron commander. He remained

squadron commander ever since, but in early 2005 his retirement loomed near.

He took a moment from reading a report to look around his office. Surrounded by memorabilia from decades of his squadron's history, he can't help but consider them family.

As the month of April drew closer, the keepsakes of years past become more meaningful to Colonel Galante. April was his last month as a member of the military. As his time grew short with the squadron, he spent more and more time reflecting on his 25-year history in the Air Force and his time with the 773rd.

On top of a shelf in the corner of his office sat an olive drab-painted metal box. On the front of it, in marker, the box was labeled "773rd TAS." The box contained the collective dust-covered history of the squadron as squadron members recorded it through the years.

Just weeks ago, he was in Turkey to commemorate another 25th anniversary. On March 14, 1980, the 773rd suffered tragedy when 18 people died in a crash just outside of Incirlik AB, Turkey. In his last overseas duty, he was the keynote speaker at the commemorative ceremony there. But once he was back home, it began to hit him that there would be no more new memories.

"The 773rd has had an incredibly successful history. They're one of the oldest airlift squadrons in existence and have done some incredible things over the years. Many of those great things happened while they were assigned to the 910th," said Col. Galante.

The 773rd has been all over the globe and involved in many airlift and humanitarian endeavors since 1995. Some of the most significant were in the past few years.



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

AytacTok is a member of the Kuyumcular village in Turkey where the 773rd aircraft crashed. On March 11 he described what he saw the night of the crash 25 years ago. He was 9-years-old at the time of the crash, but he said the memories of the tragedy were still fresh in his mind. Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Advisor (foreground), translated his story for Lt. Col. Galante and an Air Force News team.

In May 2003 a 6.8-magnitude earthquake shook Algiers, the coastal capital city of Algeria. More than 2,300 people were killed and 10,000 injured by the earthquake and the following aftershocks.

Reservists from the 773rd deployed to the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, delivered relief goods there.

Once on the ground Algerian workers unloaded 15,000 pounds of medical supplies, beds and tents for earthquake victims.

In September 2004 two crews deployed for a White House-directed airlift mission to deliver 36,000 pounds of medical supplies to Beslan, Russia. Beslan was the site of a terrorist attack on elementary school children.

The 773rd flew a mission to Rwanda in October 2004 to organize airlift of African Union troops to the distressed Darfur region of Sudan under the direction of the President. Later three 773rd crews conducted airlift missions in the region.

By the end of November 2005 the Fleagles will have



MSgt. Keith Reed

Master Sgt. Christina Feliciano (left) talks with officials at the Houari Boumediene Airport in Algiers, Algeria. Feliciano, a C-130 Hercules loadmaster assigned to the 773rd Airlift Squadron, and her crew, delivered 15,000 pounds of medical supplies, beds and tents to earthquake victims.

completed two years of continuous activation. It's been the longest activation since joining the 910th.

"I'm not going to be here to see the end of the activation but I've seen everything else since the 773rd arrived here. It's very difficult to say goodbye," said Colonel Galante.

After his retirement some of his own photos and contributions will be added to the 773rd nesting box.

Colonel Galante retired Saturday, April 2. Lt. Col. Bryan Bly took over as the new 773rd Commander. Colonel Bly

expects to continue the strong positive tradition that Colonel Galante left behind.

"Being commander isn't about me. It's about serving the people of the squadron. I intend to keep supporting this group of people as much as possible. I take on a squadron with a deep and rich history, and I take over for a man whom many, many people loved for good reason. The 773rd will get the best I have to give," said Colonel Bly.

Several chapters of the 773rd have come to a close, but new chapters of the squadron's legacy are just beginning.



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

Col. Bryan Bly (r) said he knew he'd have big shoes to fill when he replaced Lt. Col. Richard Galante (l) as the new 773rd AS commander.

Ready When It Is Real

910th Readiness spares the kitchen sink, throws everything else into Patriot Penguin



Capt. Brent Davis

Normally, Senior Airman Brady McCann has varying duties related to working for 76th Aerial Port here. During Patriot Penguin, however, he made the transition from aerial porter to gunslinger and, later, a practice target for enemy fire.

More than 500 reservists from the 910th Airlift Wing took part in “Patriot Penguin,” a simulated deployment into a hostile region.

Most action took place April 9-10 but some units, like the Command Post, dealt with scenarios since April 5.

The exercise was designed to test the wing’s deployment, employment, and redeployment capabilities under the watchful eyes of members of the Exercise Evaluation Team.

Reservists came under attack from both conventional and chemical weapons. Various levels of Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) clothing and emergency conditions were

practiced as explosions and smoke were detected across the installation. The scenarios offered hours of training to survive and operate in a chemical or biological warfare environment.

Self-aid and buddy-care were used after simulated injuries and casualties occurred. Facility hardening and protection techniques were also implemented.

Airmen across the base were seen consulting their Airman’s Manuals as part of the only large-scale mobility exercise scheduled for the 910th in 2005.

More training opportunities will be scheduled during the run-up to the Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for 2008.



MSgt. Bryan Ripple

Shake, Rattle and Ralph:

Maj. Eric Scheie, a pilot with the 757th Airlift Squadron, helped the 910th C-130 get from Ohio to the Middle East in under two hours during a simulated deployment flight.

May 2005



Imperial Forces have entered the base, Imperial forces have... Senior leadership kept their composure, if not cool heads, while facing every challenge the EETs threw their way. In a cruel gesture, PA offered to bring in pizza during "MOPP4."

MSgt. Boen Ripple

If it's a 'sweat agent,' my suit's got a leak: Senior Airmen Mike Hollows from base finance (It) and Chaplain Assistant Herman Klarr carefully checked chemical detection paper around the simulated headquarters. Incorrectly reading the papers could have spelled disaster for those within the building.



TSgt. Ken Sloat



TSgt. Ken Sloat

If Services doesn't know better than to barbeque in the basement by now... EET Frances Taylor confers with Staff Sgt. Chris Burgess of the Fire Department during an emergency call at the Dining Facility.



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

Staff Sgt. Jim Jesionowski tries to keep SrA McCann's brain in his head after an enemy attack. May 2005

Med tech Tech. Sgt. Michelle Kaszowski (far left) had her hands full during the exercise as she processed waves of injured and dead arriving at medical by the truckload.

New health plan extends care for activated reservists

WASHINGTON – Health care for reservists gets a booster shot April 25. That's when a premium-based health care plan starts for those activated for a contingency anytime since 9/11.

Department of Defense officials announced Tricare Reserve Select at a Pentagon news conference March 24.

"We are committed to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world's best fighting force," said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

TRS offers a bridge for reservists entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by a civilian employer or other health insurance plan. It's similar to Tricare Standard and comparable to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan for federal employees.

Monthly premiums for a reservist are \$75. A reservist and family pays \$233. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Air Force reservists must serve on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency. And, they must enter an agree-



ment with Air Force Reserve Command to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more years before leaving active duty. If they got off active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to apply.

Reservists earn one year of care for every 90 days of continuous active-duty service and every year of service commitment. For example, reservists with 360 days of qualifying active duty can get four years of coverage if they sign up for four years in the Selected Reserve.

Coverage ends when the service agreement ends. It stops sooner if the reservist separates from the Selected Reserve, voluntarily withdraws from the program or fails to pay the monthly premiums.

The Tricare Web site – www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect – will have more details. To get updates by e-mail, reservists and their families can subscribe to www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaresubscriptions/.

For reservists enrolled in the Transitional Assistance Management Program, coverage will start the day after TAMP ends.

New campaign medals recognize Iraq, Afghanistan service

Two new campaign medals announced April 7 recognize servicemembers for their contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Defense Department officials announced the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal for servicemembers who directly supported Operation Enduring Freedom between Oct. 24, 2001, and a date to be determined in the future or Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19, 2003, and some future date.

The new campaign medals were established by presidential order for servicemembers who have been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in these areas, officials said.

Until now, servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq during the designated timeframes were awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

"By awarding separate medals, we will recognize the specific contribution that our (servicemembers) have made in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Bill Carr, DOD's principal director of military personnel policy. "It's appropriate that we present them with an award that truly honors their heroic service in these operations."

Servicemembers with the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal remain qualified for it, and officials said, they may apply for the appropriate new campaign medal as well.

Servicemembers may receive both of the new campaign medals if they meet the requirement for both awards. However, officials said, the qualifying period of service for one award cannot be used to justify eligibility for the other. Just one award of each of the new medals is authorized, as no service stars are prescribed.

No servicemember is entitled to wear all three medals for the same act, achievement or period of service, officials said.

The area of eligibility for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal includes all the country's land and air spaces. The Iraq Campaign Medal applies for service in Iraq, its waters out to 12 nautical miles, and the airspace over Iraq and its 12-mile water area.

To qualify for the awards, servicemembers must have served in the appropriate region for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, officials said.

Servicemembers also qualify for the medals if they have been engaged in combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time spent in the area, or were wounded or injured and required medical evacuation from the area of eligibility while participating in an operation or on official duties.

Regularly assigned aircrew members flying sorties into, out of, within, or over

the area of eligibility in direct support of military operations also qualify, with each day of operations counting as one day of eligibility.

On the uniform, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal will be positioned below the Kosovo Campaign Medal and above the Iraq Campaign Medal. The Iraq Campaign Medal will be positioned below the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and above the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Each military department will serve as the awarding authority for the new campaign medals and issue regulations for processing, awarding and wearing them, officials said. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

IDT policy change gives augmentees flexibility

DENVER (AFP) — A recent policy change modifies the inactive duty training policy for individual mobilization augmentees, and gives the reservists more flexibility to schedule training requirements.

"While it is expected our IMAs will participate on a quarterly basis to maintain viability and visibility within their active-duty units, the loss of flexibility in mandating such a policy has shown no substantive improvements in budgetary control or IMA readiness," wrote Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve, in the memorandum changing the policy.

The reservists and their supervisors are free to schedule training whenever they see fit within the first three quarters of the fiscal year; however, there are stipulations to this new found freedom of choice, according to the memo.

The quarterly training days now are restricted only in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Waivers must be approved by the Air Reserve Personnel Center commander, officials said.

The reservists, along with their supervisor or program managers, still must develop an annual schedule of training periods before each fiscal year. All training periods must be approved in writing by the Airman's supervisor with an information copy sent to the appropriately assigned program manager before the training period.

The training days must prepare the reservist for mobilization, officials said.

For more information, IMAs can contact their program manager or call the personnel center at DSN 926-6503 or commercial (303)-676-6503. (Courtesy of ARPC News Service)

Airstreams available as PDFs on Web

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Lighters added to prohibited items list

In response to a provision in The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) has added all lighters to its Prohibited Items List – which means they will be prohibited past the security checkpoints at the nation's airports. The ban is effective immediately. All lighters will be treated as any other prohibited item and passengers will need to surrender them to the TSA or leave them in their vehicle or with someone who is not traveling.

Airport gate passes for military families

The Transportation Security Agency has put out a security directive pertaining to military passengers. Family members of military passengers may now be given a pass for the following reasons:

1. To escort the military passenger to the gate and 2. To meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate. The family member can now go to the airline that the military member is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate. The family member will be required to have a pass and a photo ID to get past the security checkpoint.



Fit to Fight

Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, left, helps Chief Master Sgt. Fermon Reid, supply functional manager in the AFRC Logistics Directorate, during the Air Force physical fitness test at the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., March 22. More than 30 members of the AFRC senior staff took part in the fitness evaluation in the base fitness center.



Future leaders graduate

Class 05-A of the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Development Program graduated during a March 25 ceremony presided by Col. Tim Thomson, commander of the 910th.

No yellow bracelets while in uniform

Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center officials have clarified that the Lance Armstrong bracelet cannot be worn while wearing the Air Force uniform. The yellow bracelet supporting a Cancer foundation is a noble cause, however the bracelets do not meet the conservative criteria outlined in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel. Please ensure all Airmen know the yellow bracelets are not authorized to be worn while in uniform.

AFRC issues new pregnancy policy

Effective immediately, pregnant reservists may volunteer to participate during Unit Training Assemblies from the 34th week of pregnancy to term if the following criteria are met:

- a. The reservist, unit commander, and obstetric care provider all support the decision to participate.
- b. The reservist's home is located within 50 miles of the UTA location and commutes home during the UTA.

Once a reservist delivers, they may return to full duty once cleared by their obstetric care provider. All current guidance regarding deployment restrictions of pregnant reservists and the Fetal Protection Program are still in effect.

Physical Training uniform warning

Airmen visiting the AAFES Web site to purchase the official Air Force PT uniform need to be careful. They have "PT Gear" advertised as Air Force PT Uniforms. Please ensure Airmen in your organization don't order the "PT Uniform" shown on the site at this time. It is not the uniform; it is PT Gear with Air Force decals.

Travel voucher guidance issued

Reservists are reminded that when turning in a travel voucher, only one copy of the voucher is required, but two copies of the certified order are required. The Finance office can't use blank copies of an order. To certify an order you need to fill in blocks 38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45 and if you're an ART, block 48. If you turn in only one copy of your order, it slows down the processing of your pay since someone will have to make another copy of your order. For further information, contact Kathy Ciavarella at 330-609-1289.

SPORTS Walk-on player sets stage for dramatic darts finals

A darts finals for people who don't like darts



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

Larry Felts threw like an amateur and won like a champion.

TSgt. Shawn David McCowan
Public Affairs Specialist

Larry Felts walked into the base "301" darts finals in the club's back room Saturday of the April UTA and discovered his tournament seed had been handed to someone else.

He deployed last month, missed darts competition and his place was awarded to the next player in order. In a strange twist of fate that player was not present, so the league managers elected to give Felts the open spot.

Michael Lee was poised to repeat as individual champion. First he had to defeat Felts, his former teammate. With Felts' average stats during qualifying and absence last month it appeared to be a cake walk.

Not long into their contest Lee was nearly one hundred points ahead of Felts. Lee was prepared to

end the game but then went three rounds without being able to hit his final target. Felts managed to hit several consecutive scores and gained ground.

Lee had two more scoreless rounds and nervous frustration began to set in for both competitors.

Felts tried to keep calm as he prepared to throw but he could feel the hushed gathering crowd drawing closer behind him as the tension increased.

Felts tried to ignore the eyes behind him as he nonchalantly tossed the darts toward his target at the bottom right corner of the board. The first dart was barely on the board and the second hit harmlessly in the border.

The third dart hit its mark.

The entire room erupted in shock at the upset. Felts apologized to Lee for beating him, claiming it was "all luck."

In the other semi-final game

Lee Courtney battled Rafael Zuniga, last year's runner-up. But Zuniga was relaxed and focused which spelled the end for Courtney.

Courtney initially put up a fight, but within just 10 minutes Zuniga wrapped up a convincing win and was ready to eliminate Larry Felts.

The title game would be a best-of-three, eliminating the "luck factor." Zuniga was anxious to get the title into his hands, but Felts looked surprisingly at ease.

"Raf's way better than me. I'll just give him the best game I can," said Felts.

The entire room seemed focused on each throw as the individual championship got underway. Somehow Felts managed to keep the game close, but Zuniga stayed at least 20 points ahead.

About 15 minutes into the game, Felts scored over 80 points and took a significant lead. Zuniga fought back and the title came down to a final target for each of them.

Only two rounds later, after Zuniga missed his difficult left corner target, Felts' aim was true, and the first game was over.

The second game remained virtually tied from the first throws. Soon the game was down to the final shots and Zuniga was

determined to force a third game to get the title he missed last year.

Zuniga's shots were off by mere millimeters and closing in. Felts was throwing at the top left corner of the board; his weakest area.

Felts accidentally hit another number, forcing him to aim for a different target. Luckily the new target was the same as his previous game.

Four turns later Zuniga was still shaking his head after his third missed turn when he heard the room roar. Felts had hit his target and won the darts championship.

"I gave him as good a game as I had, but he managed to get by every time. All I can say is I'll see you next year," said Zuniga.

Felts was as stunned as everyone else by the strange turn of events of the night.

"I don't even deserve this. These two are the best on the base and I can't imagine beating either of them, let alone both. It's the story of my life; timing. I happened to be here and had three good games in a row."

As competitors posed for photos, Felts apologized to his opponents again for winning. They reminded him that he may have been handed the opportunity to play again, but he earned everything after that.



TSgt. Shawn David McCowan

(l to r) Michael Lee, Larry Felts, Lee Courtney and Rafael Zuniga put their all into the tournament, but once the games were over everyone was back to being friends.

OPS moves on, COMM moves out

TSgt. Ken Sloat
Public Affairs Specialist

An energetic, but viciously out-gunned, communications flight team suffered a two-game defeat at the hands of the operations team during April UTA volleyball playoff action at the base fitness center.

The Communications team started out slowly during the first game while the operations squad was warmed up and ready to play. Ops showed off their mastery of the game by volleying the ball softly up to their front line that would then pelt the hapless communications flight with a barrage of bullet-like spikes that seemed to be guided by some sort of global positioning system.

As the communications team trudged through the Ops attack at the net, the points continued to add up on the operations scoreboard. Their slowed start was enough to let Ops build an insurmountable lead. Just moments into the game, communications was down by more than 10 points.

Jason Salts mastered a deflection technique that sent the ball skirting straight down his



TSgt. Ken Sloat

Communication Flight's Jason Corradi leaps into an airborne face off with two operations squadron opponents. His valiant effort, while successful at the net, wasn't enough to save his team from a two-game defeat in volleyball.

opponents' side of the net.

It was too much for the communications team. Not even the self-sacrificing dives of communication's Bob Fisher could keep these deadly drop shots from hitting the floor. The game ended with communications infocon warriors losing 21-14.

Game two opened to find a well-rested and ready to play operations team marching out on the floor. They jumped into the fight and immediately secured a cozy command of the

scoreboard.

While the beleaguered communications team, perhaps from not having enough people to rotate their players aggressively, seemed a little worn. They appeared to recognize their old friend defeat when it showed up at the door and the creaky sound of their closing coffin lid became deafening.

Operations defeated communications 21-9, thereby securing a position in the volleyball semi-finals next UTA.

Teams darts title rematch a year in the making

TSgt. Shawn David McCowan
Public Affairs Specialist

Rafael Zuniga and Jeremy Barker made good on a promise for revenge from last year's team darts championship. This year they defeated defending team champions Med One to become the 2005 team champions.

Under the shadow of an incredible individual darts finals, the team championship game might have seemed like an afterthought. But the "Macks" teammates worked toward the finals all month. Med One was last year's champions and were ready for a repeat performance against Zuniga's team.

The two-out-of-three contest began slowly while both teams measured the other to find an advantage. Zuniga expected very serious competition from Michael Lee and Lee Courtney. He also knew his new partner, Baker, could make the match even more

difficult if he was not at the top of his game. Barker was more than ready, and the pair took command early and never gave it up.



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Barker (l) and Zuniga (r) didn't throw away their chance at the title.

The first victory was won by Macks and it seemed to take the wind out of Med One's sails. It wasn't long before Macks put the finishing touches on claiming their title.

PROMOTIONS

Pending presidential approval, the following officers have been selected for promotion to the rank of Major with various pin-on dates.

Mark S. Breidenbaugh, 757th Airlift Sq.
Paula A. Elliot, 773rd Airlift Sq.
Casey D. Keibler, 773rd Airlift Sq.
Michael S. Keller, 910th Medical Sq.
Catherine A. Miller, 757th Airlift Sq.
Christopher R. Swegan, 773rd Airlift Sq.
David A. Tancer, 757th Airlift Sq.
James J. Torok, 773rd Airlift Sq.
Kelly T. Warren, 910th Airlift Wing
Stephen D. Zamarro, 757th Airlift Sq.



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Col. Galante's daughter, Nichole, was honored with a bouquet.

Farewell, Fleagle One

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Public Affairs Specialist

Lt. Col. Richard Galante was brought into the Air Force by stardom and left the Air Force a celebrity to many of his peers.

Sworn in by Brig. Gen. James "Jimmy" Stewart, Colonel Galante became famous in his own right through his years of service.

In the last days of the Vietnam War, Colonel Galante was a part of a C-130E crew that dropped the last bombs of that conflict, "Blu-82" Daisy Cutters. Since those early days of his career, he continued to build a long list of friends and memories.

Colonel Galante was the first commander assigned to the 773rd Airlift Squadron when it arrived at the 910th. Knicknamed "Fleagle One" after the squadron mascot, he's been their commander ever since and has overseen operations including Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and the biggest activation of the 773rd's history at the 910th.

During his retirement ceremony, Colonel Galante was addressed by members of both his 910th family and his own family. Recalling all those memories from his entire career took a visibly emotional toll on him.

When he was invited to speak, his voice was carefully measured and slightly wavering.

"It's been an incredible 25 years. I knew it would be difficult to say good-bye but it's much harder than I expected. You people are a part of my daily life just like a part of my family. After this many years, especially in a tight-knit place like the 910th..."

He paused and held back tears before continuing. When he did continue, his voice was broken and very shaky.

"I can't think of a way to thank everyone for all they've done for me and all they've meant to me. There's going to be a big hole in my life once this is over. I carry



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Every guest speaker spoke of Col. Galante's genuine nature.

some amazing memories and friendships with me into retirement."

As the ceremony ended, one family said their good-byes and the other welcomed him back home one last time.



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The entire room took a long, silent breath as the U.S. flag was presented to Col. Galante.

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