

ALAMO WING

Volume 55, Number 3, March 2006

U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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Team Lackland saves 7-year-old

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer
— 59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Meaghan Ababa is resting comfortably at Children's Hospital Los Angeles thanks to the many moving parts and total efforts of team Lackland and counterparts from March Air Reserve Base. Her doctors say it's a miracle considering the trip the 7-year-old Hawaiian girl just completed.

The journey began at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Hawaii late Friday. Doctors placed Meaghan, whose heart was failing, on an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machine. The ECMO machine did the work for Meaghan's heart and lungs.

The problem, doctors at Kapiolani weren't prepared to perform a heart transplant if her heart continued to fail.

The solution, transfer Meaghan to Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where doctors were ready to operate if necessary. However, moving an ECMO patient is no easy task.

Many hospitals have ECMO machines, only Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, is able to transport ECMO patients on a long-distance flight. The medical center keeps the system to assist Air Force families stationed in remote locations without ECMO access.

Exceptions allowing military medi-



Photo by Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer, 59th MDW Public Affairs

Neonatal fellow, Capt. Jeannette Gonzalez, prepares syringes with needed additives for the blood used in the mobile ECMO machine. The levels of calcium, sodium and other chemicals must duplicate the blood Meaghan is currently receiving as closely as possible to minimize negative reactions during transfer.

cal teams to move civilians are granted when there are no other options.

Meaghan's situation was desperate. Her heart, was enlarged, beating erratically and could not sustain her. Her doctors believed it was a virus attack. They hoped the ECMO machine doing the work for Meaghan's heart would give them time to get her to Children's.

The call came to the 59th Medical Wing late Thursday.

ECMO team members sprang into action; calls were made, approval was

coordinated, team members were notified and equipment was gathered.

Now all they needed was an aircraft to carry the team and equipment to Hawaii.

They were in luck, the 433rd Airlift Wing, a Reserve unit on Lackland AFB, could have a C-5 Galaxy available to transport the team to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the next morning.

In fact, the C-5 was already on the schedule as a local trainer. With a little

(See TEAM, 7)

Alamo Wing

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Air Force Reserve Vision

By Lt. Gen. John Bradley

AFRC Commander

As we move into 2006, it's clear we need to remain adaptable and innovative as we reconcile significant manpower reductions, budget constraints and considerable force structure changes that lie ahead.

We are being challenged with tough choices as bases and wings close or reorganize, but I'm confident we will emerge more efficient and capable than ever. A key part of our decision-making strategy is to ensure everyone has a clear vision for the future of the Air Force Reserve.

Our mission in this rapidly changing environment is to provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners. To this end, we are introducing the Air Force Reserve Vision with a focus on the wingman concept.

Being a good wingman is not an easy job! We will maintain the highest levels of combat readiness and be prepared to not only maintain good formation, but also take the lead as necessary.

We must anticipate evolving requirements and quickly adapt to meet those demands. The best wingmen look for optimal ways to employ our force and advocate processes and improvements that make everyone more effective. We are


diligent and always alert, ready to warn others of impending peril.

Great wingmen are never expected to blindly follow or be viewed as the "B-team". Our role is not to be #2 but to be the steadfast wingman, efficiently delivering highly experienced personnel, modern equipment and incomparable combat capability to combatant commanders.

The *Vision*, along with the documents and associated products, is intended to help everyone in the Air Force Reserve make cohesive decisions that focus our resources on our highest priorities while maintaining the key attributes that ensure our component's continued success.

I ask for your complete support as we work together to build a stronger, more agile Air Force.

As you continue to seek innovative ways to be more effective and responsive wingmen, I am confident our heritage will extend its acclaim as a vital contributor to the Air Force and the defense of this nation.

Thank you for your continued support and for your part in making the Air Force Reserve the *Unrivaled Wingman!* 

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle Von Seggern

Alamo Wing Chaplain

Take Heart

*I am still confident of this;
I will see the goodness of the Lord in
the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take
heart and wait for the Lord.*

Psalm 27: 13-14

Today we might not see the goodness of the Lord. We might feel sad, discouraged and worried. God does not promise every day will be perfect. But, He tells us to hold on. Tomorrow the entire situation might

change. Tomorrow we might hear some news that puts a smile on our heart and face.

I know it can be frustrating to hear: "be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord." But God's truth is God's Truth.

So many, including myself, have experienced the difference a day makes.

Only you and the Lord know how hard it is for you, but please, with His love, wait, take heart, and "soon you will see His goodness."

God bless you as you hold on, while you hold on to Him!

Life threatening Emergencies are not limited to war zones

Chief used life-saving buddy care skills

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

Reservists wear two hats, but not two faces. Training applies no matter which hat is being worn, citizen or Airman.

Chief Master Sgt. Carlos Massiatte, 433rd Airlift Wing command chief, drew on his Air Force Reserve training to save a life at his civilian workplace Jan. 27th.

"It was about lunch time and I was going to an appointment," said the chief. "Someone called out from the parking lot saying his colleague was having a seizure."

The chief acted quickly. He ran to the nearby guard shack at Air Intelligence Agency and told the guards to call for Emergency Medical Service. He didn't stop there, but took quick,

decisive action, based on his reserve training, at the scene while waiting for EMS personnel to arrive.

The seizure victim fell and was lying partially under a truck. His colleague, who initially called for help, was nervously talking on a cell phone.

"I had to act quickly," Chief Massiatte said. "It seemed like a life might be at stake."


The chief, with the victim's colleague, moved him to a safer position out from under the truck. The chief cradled the seizure victim's bleeding head. He used his training from self aid and buddy care as he pulled off his coat, he asked for other coats to cover the victim's body to protect against shock. He also pulled a handkerchief from his pocket, used it to clean the victim's mouth and used it to prevent

him from biting his tongue or choking. In line with SABC, the chief rolled him onto his side and began to talk with him.

"I wanted to keep him alert," said chief Massiatte. "I talked to him and said 'everything is going to be fine. Help is on the way.'"

SABC training was invaluable for the chief that Friday morning, just as it is to Airmen and Citizen Airmen everyday at home and at deployed locations.

"It (my Air Force Reserve training) helped me to recognize and to move with a sense of urgency and take steps to stabilize the individual until the experts arrived," Chief Massiatte said.

"We're ready to handle worst case scenarios because we're trained for worst case scenarios." 

Reservists benefit from 2006 defense authorization act

WASHINGTON – People serving in the Air Force Reserve Command and other reserve components could receive new or enhanced benefits this year.

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act lets the Department of Defense offer reservists a variety of benefits more on par with their active-duty counterparts, said Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation. President George W. Bush signed the defense bill Jan. 6.

One big change is a provision shortening the duty time before reservists qualify for the full housing allowance. People called to active duty for non-contingency operations for more than 30 days will get the full allowance, just as active-duty troops do.

In the past, reservists serving in non-contingencies had to be called to

active duty for at least 140 days.

For reservists experiencing pay cuts when activated, a new provision for income replacement helps reduce strain military service places on the family, Mr. Witschonke said.

"It can be difficult for a family that has been living on a certain income to now have less money, particularly at a time when they're stressed by a change in their lifestyle" due to military deployment, he said.

The income-replacement program won't be instituted for six months, in accordance with the law. Then, specific guidelines and qualifications will be issued, he said. The authority will end in December 2008.


The 2006 authorization act also permits increases in reserve recruiting bonuses. People could get bonuses of up to \$20,000 to enlist in the Selected Reserve. Officers could see an increase from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for

initial service in the Selected Reserve.

People who possess a designated critical skill could earn a bonus of up to \$100,000.

Another provision of the defense bill extends the eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized the new law does not guarantee all service members will qualify for these pays and benefits or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders flexibility to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on the DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay (AFRC News Service from American Forces Press Service) 

Activities, Air Force Issues, ways to ...

Get Involved

Women's History Month Events

2005 theme

Women-Builders of Communi- ties and Dreams

5K Fun Run

March 4th, time to be announced, Cost \$15
Location: Live Oak Dining Facility Route
POC Staff Sgt. Luna at 292-5705 or Staff Sgt.
Mason at 292-7017

Kick Off Breakfast

March 7th at 7:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker Col Alvarado
Location: Lackland Gateway Club Fiesta Ballroom
\$8.50 Members \$10.50 Non-Members
POC Senior Master Sgt. Gamble 292-0474 or Staff
Sgt. Settles 292-5701

Fair and Silent Auction

March 16th
Location: Wilford Hall Medical Center Atrium
POC Major Wega 292-3788 or Airman First Class
Holmes 292-5667
Silent Auction POC Airman Fogarty 292-6446

Flight representation at the Parade

24 March 24th
POC Master Sgt. Moberly 671-3696

Luncheon and Award Ceremony

March 29th at 11:30 a.m.
Location: Lackland Gateway Club
Guest Speaker: Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Manyweather
POC Captain Rohrbeck 292-4107 or Master Sgt.
Smith-Denham 925-2282
Award 1206s are due by March 10th
POC Master Sgt. Flo Taplin 292-2150

Fiesta Volunteers Needed

A Night In Old San Antonio (NIOSA) is a San Antonio tradition held in conjunction with FIESTA San Antonio.

The beignet booth is located in the French Quarter area. Beignets are French pastries much like donuts. Volunteers are needed to man the booth from 25-28 April. Volunteers receive a pass for each day they work.

To volunteer, or for more information, call Master Sgt. Nicho Gutierrez 925-3556 or e-mail: dionicio.gutierrez1@lackland.af.mil

The 59th presentation of NIOSA was held April 19-22, 2005. With an estimated crowd of over 100,000 and over 16,000 volunteers working the four nights.

All monies raised during the four-day annual event go to the San Antonio Conservation Society.

The SACS was formed to preserve and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to Texas history.

The San Antonio Conservation Society also provides scholarships.

THIS CAN GO ONE OF TWO WAYS

ONLY Government Travel Expenses

Letter of Reprimand

Split Disbursement on the Travel Voucher

Payroll Deductions

Pay the monthly bill in full

Discharge

Women in American History

In honor of Women's History Month, women who have changed America and some of their inspiring words.



Coretta Scott King
1927-2006

“ I learned that when you are willing to make sacrifices for a great cause, you will never be alone, because you will have divine companionship and the support of good people. This same faith and cosmic companionship sustained me after my husband was assassinated, and gave me the strength to make my contribution to carrying forward his unfinished work. ”

“ How do I feel about being a WASP? Out of nothing, it made me something, because it gave me the courage to try anything ”

Women Airforce Service Pilots were the first women ever trained to fly American military aircraft and flew during WWII.



Charlyne Gregor
1918-2005



Helen Keller
1880-1968

“ Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it. ” ”



Amelia Earhart
1897-1937

“ My ambition is to have this wonderful gift produce practical results for the future of commercial flying and for the women who may want to fly tomorrow's planes. ”

Updated guidance for old items

New uniform board results released

WASHINGTON -- The 97th Air Force Uniform Board released their newest results for proper wear of the uniform.

The board met in October and discussed everything from eliminating the Air Force Good Conduct Medal to maternity uniforms.

In addition, a Headquarters Air Force badge will be available this summer. The badge provides a distinct identification of military staff members assigned to the Air Staff and the Air Force Secretariat. Details about this badge will be available at a future date.

Immediate changes

- ◆ Approval to wear the blue nametag with the Air Force informal uniform -- the member's abbreviated rank and name will be on one line. This uniform is worn by recruiters, honor guard, enlisted aides, chaplains, chaplain assistants, world-class athletes, and fitness center and health and wellness center staffs.

- ◆ Cummerbund pleats will face up in all cases.

- ◆ If due to a temporary medical condition, such as chemotherapy, results in baldness, commanders will authorize the approved American Cancer Society cap, wigs or baldness while in uniform.

- ◆ Bracelet size is reduced to one-half inch.

- ◆ Bracelets that support a cause, philosophy, individual or group are not authorized. Traditional POW/MIA bracelets are still permitted.

- ◆ Gemstone and tennis bracelets only authorized while with mess dress.

- ◆ Rings will be worn at the base of the finger and will not be worn on the thumb. Wedding sets count as one ring.

- ◆ Eyeglasses will not be worn

around the neck, on top or back of the head or hanging on uniform.

- ◆ Epoxy blue nametag is optional on the blue shirt.

- ◆ Wear of the firefighter duty badge is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3E7X1 duty Air Force specialty code, including periods of professional military education and staff tours above group level.

- ◆ Wear of the security forces duty badge and beret is authorized while an individual is assigned a 3PXXX duty AFSC position and is also their primary AFSC, including PME attendance and staff tours above group level.

- ◆ The Air Force Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded. Previously earned medals are still permitted.

- ◆ Mandatory wear of the physical training uniform is set for Oct. 1 as per the instructions released last November.

- ◆ Cell phones, pagers and personal digital assistants must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray, and must be conservative. They may be clipped to the left side of the waistband or purse or carried in left hand. Only one may be worn on the uniform belt. Members will not walk in uniform while using phones, radios or hands-free headsets unless required in performing official duties using a government-issued device.

- ◆ Permanent wear of the scuba badge is authorized on the battle dress uniform.

- ◆ While not deployed, desert combat uniforms may not be worn unless en route to the basic combat convoy course. "Deployed" for this purpose includes members traveling en route to/from rest and recuperative leave from the Central Command area of responsibility, as outlined in policy announced in mid-2005.

This session of the Air Force Uni-

form Board included a special panel that was specifically chartered to make recommendations regarding updates/revisions to uniform standards affecting women Airmen.

Changes for Women:

- ◆ "Scrunchies" are prohibited.

- ◆ Hairpins and bands must match hair color.

- ◆ Hair color, frosting and highlights will not be faddish and will match natural hair colors, i.e. blonde, brunette, natural red, black or gray.

- ◆ No shaved head or flat top hairstyles for women.

- ◆ Synthetic hair can be worn, as long as it meets safety and mission requirements.

- ◆ Braids, micro-braids and cornrows are authorized.

- ◆ Nail polish will not contrast with complexion or detract from the uniform. Nor is polish of extreme color, such as purple, gold, black, blue or any fluorescent color, authorized. Nail polish will also be limited to one color.

- ◆ French manicures are allowed, but fingernail length in all instances will not exceed one-quarter inch beyond the fingertip.

- ◆ In addition to clutch-style purses, purses with no more than two straps are authorized with mess dress.

- ◆ Earrings will be small spherical, conservative diamond, gold, white pearl or silver with any uniform combination and must be worn as a set. For those with multiple ear piercing, only one set of earrings will be worn in the lower earlobe and will also conform to these earring wear standards when performing duty in civilian clothes.

- ◆ Male flight cap is optional.

The updates will be added to Air Force Instruction 36-2903 when the new version is released in March.

TEAM ... continued from Page 1

team effort and some quick work, the mission was redesignated to transport the ECMO team from Wilford Hall.

“It was amazing to see all the individuals in the unit that stepped up to help launch the mission that morning ... from extra pilots helping with the mission planning, to extra engineers helping preflight the airplane, it was a true 433rd AW team effort,” said Maj. Jeff Armentrout a C-5 Instructor Pilot with the 68th Airlift Squadron.

For the aircrew, it was the kind of mission that reinforces the reason to serve.

“There is nothing more meaningful than being able to execute real, relevant, life saving missions that truly make a positive impact in the world,” said Major Armentrout.

The 12-member ECMO team met at WHMC Aeromedical Staging Facility Friday morning and was taken, along with 1,700 pounds of equipment, to the waiting C-5.

While the eight-hour flight from Texas to Hawaii was faster than normal, it seemed slow to the ECMO team.

As soon as the wheels touched down, the team off-loaded equipment onto an ambulance, truck and van.

Doctors at Kapiolani Medical Center met the WHMC team. In a flurry of activity, the doctors, nurses and medical technicians got the mobile ECMO machine up and running. They triple-checked every function.

Then began the process of switching Meaghan from the hospital’s machine to the mobile unit. Carefully, the two medical teams worked in unison.

Once Meaghan was stable, the team packed up and the trip began.

A C-17 Globemaster III, from March AFB, was waiting to transport Meaghan, her mother, Fe Reyes, her father, Alex Ababa, and the medical team to Los Angeles.

During the six-hour flight the ECMO team watched Meaghan’s vital signs closely. Her machine was

also given consistent in-flight checks.

The plane touched down at 6 a.m. and Meaghan was driven from Bob Hope Airport in L.A. to Children’s Hospital.

Children’s medical team met the WHMC team and the final transfer was done. Meaghan’s journey was complete.

“The transfer went very well,” said Maj. (Dr.) John Lin, pediatric intensivist at Wilford Hall. “Thanks to the level of expertise the team provided and some great teamwork.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer, 59th MDW Public Affairs

The Air Force Reserve C-5 that carried the Wilford Hall medical team and their equipment to Hawaii could carry many times the weight this mission required. By traveling light, the 68th Airlift Squadron aircrew could fly faster than with a fully loaded aircraft. The mission was all about time as Meaghan’s condition had worsened during the night.

Tax Tips and Money Matters

Web Resources

IRS Home Page: <https://www.irs.gov>

IRS military tax information: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>

SPEED UP YOUR RETURN

Want your refund faster? Have it sent via direct deposit. More taxpayers are choosing direct deposit to receive federal tax refunds. More than 52 million people had tax refunds deposited directly into their bank accounts in 2005. It’s a secure and convenient way to get your money in your pocket faster.

TAX CENTERS OPEN TO MILITARY, RETIREES, FAMILIES MEMBERS

Almost every military installation offers a tax center for military, retired military and family members. Volunteers at the centers are trained by the Internal Revenue Service and military legal office and can provide advice or assistance in filing taxes. Returns filed through the tax centers are sent electronically and people usually receive their refunds within seven to 10 days.

Watch for the IRS Logo in the April Issue of the Alamo Wing. As the April 15th tax deadline approaches, the Alamo Wing will print tips that could save time and money.





Note Worthy



Meritorious Service Medal



AF Commendation Medal



AF Achievement Medal

Lieutenant Colonel

Harrison Axum, MXG

Major

Lori Jones, MXS
Kevin Kelly, 68th AS
Ronald Lee, 68th AS
Gerald Longhurst, 68th AS
Adam Rodriguez, AES

Captain

Jay Johnson, AMXS
Donna Maldonado, AES
Deborah Morgan, AES

Chief Master Sergeant

Rodney Christa, AES
Rodgelio Guerra, MOS

Senior Master Sergeant

Rafael Brisita, AMXS
Diane Dean, MOS
Augustin Garcia, 74th APS
Richard Torres, CES

Master Sergeant

Eddie Dunn, 68th AS
Robert Hughes, 74th APS
Edith Kelly, AMXS
David Latham, AMXS
David Tavitas, CES

Technical Sergeant

Roland, Lopez, 74th APS
Ronald, Sanders, TRS

Major

Dallas Hayes, 26th APS

Captain

Diane Aadland, AMDS
Charles Hooper, CF
Angelica Sanders, AMDS

First Lieutenant

Suzanne Priest, MXS

Master Sergeant

Reginald Daniels, 26th APS
Israel Garza, AMXS
Eri Gonzalez, AMXS
Jesse, Hinojosa, AMXS
Steve Kakacek, AMXS

Technical Sergeant

Billy Ezell, TRS
Richard Koger, AMXS

Senior Airman

Antonio Ramirez, AMXS
Linda Santy, AES

Lieutenant Colonel

Mary Wooldridge, AMDS

Captain

Joseph Rogalinski, SMDS

Master Sergeant

Bobby Casas, MXS
Maximino Hernandez, Jr., MXS
Timothy Hill, MXS
Ernest Lopez, AMDS
Ricky Mann, AMDS
Gerard Silva, MXS
Felix Villarreal, MXS

Technical Sergeant

John Barry, Sr., MXS
Mai Nguyen, AMXS
Raymond Rodriguez, MXS
Tammy Vershay, 74th APS
Gilbert Vigil, MXS

Senior Airman

Roger Cuevas, 74th APS
Mario Gonzales, AMXS
Michael Rodgers, 74th APS
Martin Salas, AMXS

Brig. Gen. (select) John Fobian, 433rd Airlift Wing Commander would like to congratulate the Wing First Quarter award winners. Each is in the running for the yearly award.

Airman Category: SrA Kimberly A. Mancilla, 433rd LRS

NCO Category: TSgt Samuel G. Caballero, 433rd TRS

SNCO Category: MSgt Julie R. Begley, 433rd TRS

Congratulations to Brig. Gen. (select) John Fobian, 433rd Airlift Wing Commander, on the announcement of the Senate confirmation of his promotion to Brigadier General effective April 1st.

Congratulations to the 433rd Airlift Control Flight

Each winner at the 4th Air Force Level is now competing at the Air Force Reserve Command level

Airlift Control Flight Officer of the Year:

Capt. Robert Acosta

Airlift Control Flight Senior NCO of the Year:

Master Sgt. Gerardo Zuniga,

VA Valor winner one of our own SFS troops

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

He stepped out of his vehicle, one of many in the convoy, into a hostile scene. There was chaos, and gunshots in the air. This wasn't a scene in the Iraqi Sunni Triangle. This was New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina.

The Sunday after Katrina made landfall, Tech. Sgt. Randy Perfecto, from the 433rd Security Forces Squadron, was on the ground in New Orleans. He didn't go as part of the vast military relief efforts. He went as a Veterans' Administration police officer. While members of his Reserve unit flew in and out of the Internation-

al Airport, Sergeant Perfecto was sent to secure a VA hospital.

"We rallied in Alexandria, La., and picked up weapons," said Sergeant Perfecto.

Once equipped, Sergeant Perfecto and a team of VA officers from around the country went on to New Orleans. The scene on arrival was out of control.

"It was chaotic on the ground. There were lots of people in the water rushing to get out of the city, to get back in to check on their families and the hospital was in five feet of poisonous water."

The VA team had a single directive: protect the hospital, its personnel and property.

"The state troopers thought we were crazy for trying to secure the facility, but our first order of business was to sweep (or search) the facility and get the patients to safety," Sergeant Perfecto said.

Officer Perfecto soon found out why state troopers were more than hesitant about the group's directive.

"It was like a war zone," Sergeant Perfecto said. "Hungry people were attacking relief convoys."

Conditions weren't much better for those working in the storm's aftermath. Food was scarce, sanitation nearly impos-

sible and clean drinking water was an imported commodity.

As for Officer Perfecto, he survived for almost a week on the MREs he carried in and bottled water.

Security duty for Sergeant Perfecto wasn't limited to only armed patrols or guarding entryways.

At one point, the hospital's generator was failing because sewage and debris in the fuel tank. Failing power was a threat to security and to patients needing powered systems.

Officer Perfecto wasted no time. He donned pants from a chemical protective suit and waded through e-coli infested water to help a fuel crew restore the generator's capacity.


He also found himself helping to transfer veterans' remains from the hospital morgue to a place where they could be stored honorably while awaiting burial.

Security duty during a crisis grew into an all-encompassing, do what needs done, no matter what, duty. For his efforts, he was awarded the VA Award for Valor.

Sergeant Perfecto said getting this award was a humbling experience.

"As a supervisor here (at the 433rd SFS), I'm used to putting my troops up for awards and not thinking about awards for myself," Sergeant Perfecto said.

He said his Air Force experience helped tremendously on this VA deployment. He enjoys his SF career field in the Air Force because of the esprit de corps. "...it's that loyalty, that 'huwaah' and service before self that comes from the career field environment. It's something you catch, like a good disease," Sergeant Perfecto said.

"I was surprised when they told me about the award," said Sergeant Perfecto, a 23-year Air Force veteran. "I only did the kinds of things I've always done in the Air Force." 



Courtesy Photo

The view from a Veteran's Administration Security Patrol boat after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city of New Orleans. The City remained under water for months.



News Bites...

FORCE-SHAPED OFFICERS CAN GO RESERVE

Joining the Reserve is an option open to lieutenants affected by force shaping.

The first step for those interested in joining the Air Force Reserve is to schedule a meeting with a Reserve recruiter.

Information on employment opportunities, news and employer resources are available on the Air Force Reserve Command website at www.afrc.mil.

AFAF CAMPAIGN

The 2006 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign runs from Feb. 13 to May 5.

Organizations benefiting from the AFAF campaign include the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widow's Fund, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

The charities receive 100-percent of designated contributions and those donations benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired service members, surviving

spouses and families.

START DATE FOR NSPS DELAYED THREE MONTHS

The initial group of civilian employees to fall under the new National Security Personnel System has been reduced from 60,000 to 11,000 and the implementation date has changed from Feb. 1 to April 30.

NSPS is intended to streamline cumbersome personnel rules and make it easier for managers to both reward stellar performance and correct sub-par performance among the 650,000 Department of Defense civilian service employees.

BILLING DATE CHANGES FOR GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD

Air Force government travel card billing cycles for individually billed accounts will begin closing out on the 22nd of each month beginning in March.

The current cycle ends the third day of every month, so cardholders will experience a longer than normal billing cycle running from Feb. 3 through March 22.

GTC USERS CAN ACCESS INFORMATION ONLINE

Government travel card holders can register online for Electronic Account Government Ledger System user identification and passwords using information found on GTC statements. EAGLS allows cardholders to view current transactions, previous statement activity and maintain account information online.

To register, visit https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/eagls_selfregistration/selfreg.asp

EAGLS user names and passwords will be mailed to the address associated with the GTC account. Cardholders can also call the EAGLS technical help desk at (800) 472-1424.

MILITARY, CIVILIAN HURRICANE MEDALS APPROVED

Servicemembers and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal. The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed

Forces Service Medal for U.S. military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

For more information, contact the military or civilian personnel flight.

GI BILL ALSO OFFERS JOB TRAINING BENEFITS

Troops who don't use their GI bill benefits for college tuition can receive a paycheck supplement at their first job, under a program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The money is contingent upon the employer offering a VA-approved job training program.

Many of those currently receiving the benefit are for jobs like mechanics, firefighters or policemen, where new workers typically go through some sort of apprenticeship for their first few months.

For more information on the GI bill benefits, visit www.gibill.va.gov or contact the 433rd AW education office at 925-4922.

REMEMBER the ALAMO WING

DID - you - KNOW

March 20, 2003 – Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

The next day an air campaign called the Shock and Awe Campaign launched over 1700 air sorties.

"...as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others." -

Marianne Williamson

Who's Who in the...



Alamo Wing

The big whos of 2005

First Sergeant of the Year



Master Sgt. Gene Peterson
433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron First Sergeant

Senior NCO of the Year



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa
433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Readiness Manager

Congratulations to our wing yearly award winners. Each one embodies the Air Force Core Values of service before self, integrity first and excellence in all we do.

NCO of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Rachel Demone
433rd Maintenance Operations Squadron Supply Technician

Airman of the Year



Staff Sgt. Maria Sparks
433rd Maintenance Operations Squadron Maintenance Scheduler

Exercise, Exercise

If the worst happens are you ready?

By Staff Sgt. Bethany Trapp
Wing Public Affairs

The wing completed an annual requirement February 4th and 11th during the A and B-UTAs. The requirement was a National Disaster Response Exercise that started at 7 a.m. and continued until each squadron heard the all clear from command post.

The scenario was a tornado warning.

“The exercise performed is based on locality and the region,” said Senior Master Sgt. David Abildgaard, Readiness Superintendent of Civil Engineering. “You wouldn’t have a hurricane or a blizzard exercise here.”

Along with performing the best suited exercise, several outcomes are expected.

“(Members are expected) ... to identify and correct problem areas, to strive to make things better the next time around and prepare

people for real time emergencies and contingencies,” said Sergeant Abildgaard. “Should these people deploy over to the desert, you still have to deal with the natural disasters of that region,” he said.

Emergency management troops inspect each squadron according to established criteria, and the inspection begins at the sound of a three to five minute steady tone. “First and foremost was to account for their personnel,” said Sergeant Abildgaard. “Then identify the type of natural disaster because they need to know how they should be responding.”

After hearing the all clear, they would assess the damage decide if there were any casualties or any members who need aid rendered he said.

After the exercise, staff from Emergency Manage-

ment assess the exercise and lessons learned.

“Two words need to be highlighted - common sense,” said Tech. Sgt. Carter Goth, emergency management specialist. “If you can use common sense, you can save your life. Be aware of your surroundings in case you have to take cover and train on what you need to do because if you don’t practice you won’t know what to do.”

“The main things I would look at is knowing where your specific shelter is, not being caught outdoors, knowing what to do when an all clear is announced and knowing what a three to five [minute] steady tone is,” said Master Sgt. Shane

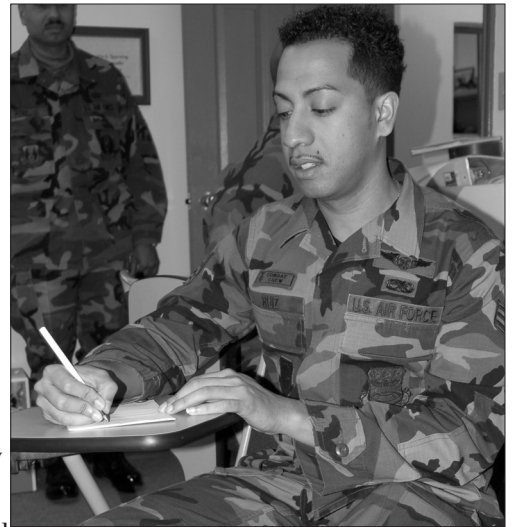


Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethany Trapp

Senior Airman Jose Ruiz follows proper procedures by signing in on the accountability roster sheet during the recent National Disaster Response Exercise.

MacDonald, emergency management specialist.

Emergency Management was formerly known as Full Spectrum Threat Response. Before FSTR they were known as Disaster Preparedness.

The official name changed several times but EM is still the source for preparedness.

The wing passed but there’s room for improvement. 🏠

UTA SCHEDULE

March

A UTA March 4-5
B UTA March 18-19

April

A UTA April 1-2
B UTA April 22-23

May

A UTA May 6-7
B UTA May 20-21

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