

ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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Selected for brigadier general



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Air Force Reserve Command Officials announced on Nov. 23rd, Col. John C. Foblan, commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing, was nominated by the President for promotion to brigadier general.

Col. Foblan's promotion takes effect upon U.S. Senate confirmation and by direction of the Chief of the Air Force Reserve.

Colonel Foblan's promotion is only one of several new developments expected for the Alamo Wing in 2006. For more programs and mission challenges expected this year see the story on the right.

Ops tempo remains high

In 2005, the Alamo Wing participated in some amazing missions. We flew into Iraq with supplies for ground operations, into Sri Lanka for disaster relief, out of New Orleans with precious cargos of people needing medical care after a hurricane, out of Beaumont, Texas with those who needed to flee another vicious storm and we moved equipment for NASA's scientific research teams all across the globe.

We've sent people to drive in supply convoys in Iraq, provide security aboard aircraft in nations formerly locked behind a political Iron Curtain, some went to destroy roadside bombs and we've sent chaplains to encourage and bolster spirits of troops in war zones.

The operations tempo was high and we were recognized by many organizations both from within the military and our community for the dedication exhibited by the members of the Alamo Wing. The City of San Antonio named the Alamo Wing as the first unit

to receive the Patriot Award. The Air Force Association chose the 433rd AW as the State of Texas Military Organization of the Year.

This year promises more opportunities to step up and get the job done. That promise means we won't slow down any time soon.

One new development added to our continued busy operations includes taking on the C-5 schoolhouse where every Air Force C-5 pilot, engineer and loadmaster will get their start.

People from across the Air Force will get their first glimpse of life in Texas after basic from the members of the 433rd Airlift Wing.

This year the 433rd will be in the bucket for an Air Expeditionary Force rotation. Volunteer taskings are already being offered.

"There are critical challenges in 2006 which will affect everyone in the Alamo Wing," said Col. John Foblan, commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing. "Look ahead and be prepared to get the job done."

Alamo Wing

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By Col John Fobian

Wing Commander

Our Reserve Triad

Often talk about the relationship triad between family, civilian jobs and Reserve participation, and how, over time, we must keep these in relative balance. Call it a triangle of commitments, stresses and time management. Each leg of the triangle is connected to two others. Each has the potential to impact the others at one time or another.

On the family side, I realize there are important family events that, at the moment they occur, require more attention than the Reserve or even your civilian job. As these settle down, we can get our triangle back in balance.

It's not easy to share a spouse, parent, child or significant other with the Alamo Wing on weekends and holidays. I recognize that annual tours don't always come at the best time. While the Reserve

can be a great second job, even a welcomed first job, at times it can "get in the way" if we're not prepared.

A supportive family that understands their Reservist's participation requirements and pressures is an essential element in the triad. There will be missed ball games, school plays and birthdays. How your family handles this issue could potentially affect your future Reserve participation. You need to work closely with your family through the short-term challenges so you don't make the wrong long-term decisions.

Our Reservists are doing what's best for our country – being Citizen Airmen. The Air Force Reserve provides America with the best investment for the money spent. The families of the Alamo Wing are critical to our future success. 🏠

Chaplain's Corner

The Challenge of Change

Chaplain Lyle Von Seggern

Alamo Wing Chaplain

*"There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under
heaven:*

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance..."*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

Change can be positive or negative but I believe it always causes stress. We are creatures of habit. We like to park in the same spot, sit at the same desk, drive the same road and listen to the same kind of music. When someone else sits in our pew, the world stops. (I have stories if

you don't believe me!)

One thing never changes, the fact that change is a part of life in Alamo Country. So how do we manage change? We can't. We can manage our reaction to change.

Please be honest with yourself and each other. Are your reactions to change helpful or harmful to yourself and those around you? If you're willing to admit you manage change in an unhealthy way, please seek support. Your Chaplain Service team would be honored to help you manage change. Call us at 925-3556 today and remember, God loves you no matter what you're going through.

Resolve to start taking care of business

By Tech. Sgt. Collen Roundtree
Wing Public Affairs

Just weeks before Christmas there's a lot on my plate.

There's so much to do and everything's late.

There are gifts to wrap up and cookies to make.

And if that's not enough we just set a date.

It isn't exactly the traditional version of the classic poem, *T'was the Night Before Christmas*. But, it's a pretty accurate description of the holidays, and life in general lately. Busy and overwhelming.

It doesn't help that I'm getting married 20 days after Christmas. There are a million little planning details floating through my head getting tangled with the Christmas ribbon. And, as they say on the infomercials, but wait, there's more.

Two weeks before Christmas, I get one of those phone calls we all dread getting, the kind of call that stops your world and makes all those details shrink into the trivia they really are.

My dad is in the hospital. He's had a stroke. He's going to make it but there are lasting effects. My mom is now dealing with a mountain of monstrous details of her own and I'm not able to help her because I'm 2,100 miles and one left turn away.

The situation my mom finds herself in now has me thinking about my future and how busy life is. I can't let it get so busy that I neglect to care for the administrative details of life. I have to stop my world and take care of business. If I don't, my new family will be facing some of the really big questions my mom is facing now.

Dad is retired Air Force. He is registered with the VA and already drawing partial disability. He is covered by Tri-care. But not all of his information is current, nor did he

originally apply for all the benefits he was eligible for.



All those benefits are great but, if your family doesn't know who to call to get the ball rolling, or you don't keep up on the paperwork, they don't do what they are designed for – they don't ease the burden during tough times.

In fact, if you get too busy to register with the Veteran's Administration, write down key phone numbers or update your Servicemen's Group Life Insurance information, those same benefits will cause more stress.

Mom didn't know what she needed to do to ensure dad's medical bills were covered. Dad didn't get the right paperwork done when he retired to change his SGLI into Veteran's Group Life Insurance. He also didn't register for survivor benefits for mom if the worst were to happen. Mom has only a small income of her own from her yarn shop and it is not enough to live on. I thank God Dad will survive – and they have another chance to get their affairs in order. I am also thankful for resources like Air Force One Source and the 433rd Airlift Wing Family Support Office. They are both helping me get the information my parents need to take care of fixing what can be fixed and to find alternate planning for gaps in benefit coverage. Mom will have a list of resources from now on. Everything from VA Counselors, Disabled Veteran's of America, home health assistance for when Dad first comes home from the rehabilitation center and other little known resources the family support office found for me.

My parents are older and dad is retired but I don't have to wait until then to get my information in order or to keep it updated as my life changes.

My new family will need a new plan. My New Year's resolution is to keep my information updated and my

family knows where to find the information they need. My future husband is retiring from the Army and he too is making sure his information is updated. He is planning to go immediately to see what can be done about switching to VGLI and enrolling with the VA and what needs to be done when we marry to make sure spouse benefits are available to both of us.

Because I came face-to-face with reality with my parents' situation, there is a new notebook of important information being built in my house. In it is the toll-free number for the Veteran's Administration. The casualty assistance officer's phone number is in there. The family support phone number is in there and so is the number for Air Force One Source. Web sites are listed where available. My son knows where the notebook is. My fiancé knows where it is. My mom knows where it is and can tell anyone over the phone how to find it.

Because I'm getting married, there are a few other things to update in the near future. My beneficiary information will change on the first business day after my wedding.

Well ... after the honeymoon. 🏠

Resources

The National Archives provides military records like DD-214s.
www.archives.gov/veterans

The Veteran's Administration
www.va.gov

Disabled American Veterans help with VA applications www.dav.org

For many resources available to military members try military OneSource. 800-342-9647 or www.airforceonesource.com

**Activities, Air Force
Issues, ways to ...**

GET INVOLVED

Children's Art Contest- "Proud to be an Air Force Reserve Family"

Children, under the age of 18, are invited to enter this year's 433rd Family Support Office art contest. Draw a picture showing why you are "Proud to be an Air Force Reserve Family." Add a message for all to see like, "I love you, Daddy," or "I'm glad Maria is my mom!"

First place winners in each category will receive a cash prize.

12-18 yrs	1 st Place \$50
6-11 yrs	1 st Place \$25
5 yrs and under	1 st Place \$25

All winning artwork will be displayed in the Family Support Office throughout the year and be printed in the Alamo Wing's May issue.

Submit the entry form with your artwork to the Family Support Office.

Please read entry form for more rules.

Winners will be announced in April on each UTA.



The above artwork is a sample of an entry from an Air Force children's art contest. The contest for the families of the 433rd Airlift Wing follows the same theme. Make your entry show why you are proud to be an Air Force Reserve family.

Art Contest Entry Form- "Proud to be an Air Force Reserve Family."

Entry due date is March 19, 2006. Just print, fill out the form and mail it along with a photo of your child and their artwork to:

433rd Family Support Art Contest
203 Galaxy Rd., Bldg 909, Rm 109
Lackland AFB, TX 78236

Parent name _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

(Needed to notify winners) (only if no email)

Authorizing Signature _____ Date _____

Additional Rules A.K.A. the fine print

- ◆ Photo and artwork will not be returned.
- ◆ Only one entry per child.
- ◆ Photo and artwork must be 8.5" X 11" or smaller.
- ◆ Must be a child of the 433rd Airlift Wing or tenant unit member.
- ◆ Family Support has the right to publish your submitted materials
- ◆ *Hint:* Entries with great use of color and patriotic theme will catch judges' attention.

For more information, contact the 433rd Family Support Office at (210) 925-3650

Base Tax Center to open in New Year

Tax season is coming, and once again the Lackland Tax Center is offering assistance to active-duty members, retirees and members of the National Guard and Reserve for both state and federal taxes.

The Tax Center is scheduled to open on the second floor of Bldg. 1530 which is at North Frank Luke Drive, Kelly USA.

The center will open at the end of January and operate until April 17th. The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Nearly all units and organizations will have at least one unit tax advisor ready to assist with income tax returns.

The unit advisors each completed a comprehensive training course and passed an examination to become certified. Unit advisors have reference materials and forms for processing federal returns. Active duty members are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from their advisors before coming to the Tax Center.

Anyone interested in getting assistance should check with their unit orderly room to find their unit advisor.

As the tax season approaches, additional tax information will appear in the Talespinner. Until then, here are some tips to remember when going into this tax season:

Members may qualify for a deferral of taxes owed if they can show that their ability to pay taxes was affected by their military service. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides this benefit. The deferral is


not automatic. You must apply for it. When applying, you must show how military service affected your ability to pay. You must also have received a notice of tax due, or have an installment agreement with the

IRS, before applying for the deferral. The deferral does not extend the deadline for filing any tax returns.

For U.S. armed forces personnel serving in a combat zone, the IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refund and taking other actions related to federal income tax. The IRS also extends the deadline for those in the U.S. armed forces deployed overseas away from their permanent duty station in support of

operations in a qualified hazardous duty area but not located within the qualified hazardous duty area. The deadline for filing returns, making payments or taking any other action with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after the last day of qualifying combat zone service, or the last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the combat zone.

When deploying, it's helpful to designate someone to represent you on a federal tax matter when possible. To do this, file Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, with the IRS office where you want your representative to act for you.

Only certain limited individuals may be designated as your representative. Examples include, but are not limited to: attorneys, certified public accountants and immediate family members. Your signature on Form 2848 authorizes the individual or individuals named to represent you before the IRS and to receive your tax information. more information and tax tips are coming in the months ahead. 

Article courtesy of the 37th Training Wing, Comptrollers Squadron.



Tax tips and resources

Web resources

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

IRS home page: <http://www.irs.gov/>

Tips

In January 2006, the IRS will decrease the mileage reimbursement rates for private autos from 48.5 to 44.5 cents per mile, due to a decline in oil and gas prices. Be aware of the future lower deduction.

Charitable contributions can be deducted from your income tax for up to 50-percent of your adjusted gross income in most instances. For more information on deductions for giving, see the IRS publication 526 at the IRS web site.

Keep watching for the IRS logo in upcoming issues of the Alamo Wing. As the April 15th tax deadline approaches, the Alamo Wing will continue to print tips that could save you money.



New Air Force mission statement

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

— *Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

“Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges,” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. “Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise.”

The mission statement defines the “where and what” the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new

concepts, “sovereign options” and “cyberspace,” which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

“Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy’s defenses,” they said. “With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world.”


The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

“We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure

the networks can’t be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures,” Secretary Wynne said. “The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent.”

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman’s calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

“If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts,” they said. “If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.”

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, “The Air Force’s mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.” 

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

ID: New federal ID to replace current common access card All agencies to participate in new security measures

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood

— *American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — A new, standardized identification card is being developed for all federal employees.

The new card will replace the common access cards that military personnel, government civilians and contractors now hold, said Mary Dixon, deputy director of the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The new cards will look much the same as CACs, with a few changes,


Mrs. Dixon said. The color scheme will be different and more information will be embedded in the card, she said.

The added information will be a biometric of two fingerprints, to be used for identification purposes, and a string of numbers that will allow physical access to buildings, Mrs. Dixon said.

The biggest change will be the addition of wireless technology, which will allow the cards to be read by a machine from a short distance away, Mrs. Dixon said. This will make the

new cards much easier to use for access to buildings than CACs, which must be swiped through a reader, she said.

The new cards themselves will not be enough to grant access to all federal buildings, Mrs. Dixon said. Rather, they will be checked against each building’s database to determine if an individual has access.

A prototype of the new card is being developed and will be finalized in the next couple of months, Mrs. Dixon said. 

Air Force declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - The Air Force's most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor's proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force. It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, "If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us."

"F-22A IOC means our war fighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal," General Keys said. "The Raptor's cutting-edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats."

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service's industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

"The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the war fighter today and 30 years



U.S. Air Force photo


Lt. Col. James Hecker, commander, 27th Fighter Squadron stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, and Lt. Col. Evan Dertein fly in formation behind a KC-10 "Extender" in route to Hill Air Force Base, Utah October 15, 2005. This operation, dubbed "Combat Hammer" gives the Air Force's first operational F/A-22 squadron a chance to deploy the aircraft to a new location and practice various operations.

from today," General Keys said. "Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force. To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge."

Designed to ensure America's air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces' freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

"As I told (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force. Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air," General Keys said.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing here.

The squadron's F-22A current combat deployment capability is a 12-ship package designed for air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. 



Meritorious Service Medal

Colonel

Wayne Olson, AES
Howard Seid, 68th AS

Lt. Colonel

John Jones, Jr., ASTS

Major

James Clutter, CES
William Duke, 68th AS

Master Sgt.

Andrea Maida, 74th APS
Ronald Robinson, 74th APS
Luis Vera, AMXS
William Waddle, CES

Tech. Sgt.

Rene Campos, 74th APS
Henry Flores, Jr., MXS

AF Commendation Medal

Master Sgt.

David Benavides, 74th APS
William Henderson, 74th APS
Vincent Moore, AMXS
Lorie Semien, 74th APS

Tech. Sgt.

Daniel Espinosa, LRS
Mai Nguyen, AMXS
Estolfo Salinas, Jr., MXS
Gerard Sanchez, MXS
Joseph Withrow, 74th APS

Staff Sgt.

Martin Rivera, 74th APS
Kevin Uerkwitz, 74th APS

Congratulations Tech. Sgt. Jesus Ochoa from the 433rd SFS. He is the 433rd Airlift Wing Ceremonial Guardsman of the Year for 2005

Note Worthy



AF Achievement Medal

Master Sgt.

Bobby Casas, MXS
Maximino Hernandez, Jr., MXS
Timothy Hill, MXS
Gerard Silva, MXS
Felix Villarreal, MXS

Tech. Sgt.

Rudy Adame, 74th APS
John Barry, Sr., MXS
Billy Colwell, LRS
Louis Hernandez, LRS
Raymond Rodriguez, MXS
Tammy Vershay, 74th APS
Gilbert Vigil, MXS

Staff Sgt.

Roger Cuevas, 74th APS
Michael Rodgers, 74 APS
Rolando Valdez, 433 MXS

Master Sgt.

Lysander Watson, AMDS
Raul Estrada, AMXS
Michael Flack, ALCF
Eri Gonzalez, AMXS

Tech. Sgt.

Edward Hernandez, MXS
Lawrence Holmes, 710th IF
Guillermo Jalomo, 68th AS
Luis Jaramillo, AMXS
Roland Curtis, AMXS
Manuel Martinez, MXS
Virginia Tompkins, AMXS
Robert Winkler, 307th RH

Staff Sgt.

James Cordova, AMXS
Rhonda Davila, LRS
Jonathan Hardee, MDS
Downey Sanchez, Jr., LRS
Timothy Sullivan, CF
Michael Wilms, ASTS

Senior Airman

Kevin Culp, CES
Adrain Gonzales, 307th RH
Mark Hawkins, AMXS
Christopher Boenker, 74th APS

Airman First Class

Bertha Torres, MOS

Reenlistments

Chief Master Sgt.

Tony Ortiz, MXS

Senior Master Sgt.

David Brietzke, AMXS
Lorena Machacon, AMDS



In 2005 the Alamo Wing earned prestigious awards such as the City of San Antonio's Patriot Award and the Texas's Air Force Association's Outstanding Unit Award. With continued teamwork the 433rd can accomplish even more in 2006.

REMEMBER the ALAMO WING

DID - you - KNOW

In January of 1971, the Alamo Wing received its first C-130B Hercules.

"Energy and persistence conquer all things." - Benjamin Franklin

AF updates PT Uniform wear guidance

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Uniform Board established an Oct. 1, 2006 mandatory wear date for unit fitness activities and released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the physical training uniform for personal workouts.

Airmen may wear the PTU during personal workouts given the following conditions:

- T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in;
- jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes;
- black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts;
- white socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are

authorized;

- any athletic shoes may be worn;
- safety items such as reflective belts, camelbacks and fanny packs are authorized;
- hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements;
- headphones are still authorized;
- bandanas and other similar head scarves are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver
- saluting is not required.

All Airmen must comply with tattoo and jewelry standards as stated in Air Force Instruction 36-2903 “Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.”

Female Airmen exercising in the PTU may wear their hair free of pins

or other accessories normally required to meet uniform standards. There is no mandated maternity PTU while participating in format or unit activities.

The PTU was created to support cohesion and present a professional, image. Commanders determine what uniform items, which consist of a jacket, pants, shorts and T-shirt, Airmen will wear for unit fitness events.

The uniform board is working on optional items including a long-sleeve shirt, sweatshirt and another style of running shorts.

For more information, Airmen should contact their commander’s support staff, military personnel flight or personnel office at deployed locations.

Sexual Assault ... continued from back page

SARCs are able to determine if a sexual assault meets the restricted report requirements.”

Health-care providers will provide the appropriate emergency medical care and notify the SARC immediately to initiate the restricted reporting process and will have confidentiality regarding the report, Major Thompson said. Health-care providers and medical professionals won’t contact security forces as previously required.

Reports of sexual assault made to chaplains are not considered restricted but do remain privileged. Chaplains, in turn, will assist victims in notifying a SARC so the victims have the restricted report option.

“Currently, when a report of sexual assault is made through normal reporting channels, which include the victim’s chain of command, law enforcement, the Office of Special Investigations or other criminal investigative services, it is known as an unrestricted report,” Major Thompson said. “Unrestricted reports immediately

initiate an investigation. Still, the SARC will be notified, and support will be provided to the victim throughout the investigation.


“Third-party reports can be made to the SARC, but the victim will have to notify the SARC for a restricted report. If a third-party reports a sexual assault to any other agency, then the normal investigative process will occur.”

Major Thompson said it is extremely important that victims of sexual assault seek assistance.

“Victims need to realize that help is available and that they don’t have to go through this experience alone,” she said. “DOD and the Air Force are committed to taking care of victims with sensitivity, dignity and respect, and we hope that the restricted report option will encourage more people to come forward and report sexual assault.”

Under the SARC program, sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force,

physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. It includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling) or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of the victim.

For information about the new sexual assault reporting policy, contact the base SARC or Major Thompson at DSN 497-0391. Her e-mail address is denise.thompson@afrc.af.mil. 

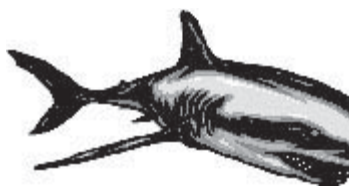
On-line sexual assault information and victim resources

<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

<http://www.nsvrc.org>

<http://www.sapr.mil/>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/eo.html>



News Bites...

OVER-THE-COUNTER EXPENSES

Did you know that a Health Care FSA account covers over-the-counter expenses like aspirin, cold medicine, band-aids, sunscreen and contact lens solution?

You can use a Health Care FSA account to pay for specific medical expenses such as prescription medicine and doctor co-payments, and also many everyday, over-the-counter items that help keep you and your family healthy.

To view a detailed list of eligible over-the counter medicines and products, click this link: https://www.fsafeds.com/forms/OTC_QRG000.pdf

FSA USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT RULE

If you participated during 2005, you have until March 15 to incur eligible expenses that may be reimbursed from your Health Care or Dependent Care FSA account(s), resulting in less chance to forfeit funds. If you sign up for FSAFEDS for 2006, you will have from Jan. 7 until March 15, 2007, to incur eligible expenses. For more information, view the BEST (Benefits and Entitlements Service Team) December 2005 newsletter at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/Newsletters/BEST_Newsletter_Dec_05.pdf

TSP BEGINS CATCH-UP CONTRIBUTION ENROLLMENT

The Air Force Personnel Center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team automated systems became available for 2006 Thrift Savings Plan catch-up contribution enrollment on Dec. 11.

Military members may submit their 2006 catch-up contribution enrollments in early January. TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from regular TSP contributions.

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, be in a pay status, and must be able to certify that they will make (or have made) the maximum "regular" TSP employee contributions of \$15,000 by the end of 2006. They must contribute the full \$15,000 since regular employee contributions are no longer limited to a set percentage each pay period.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123013433>

TSP ENROLLMENT CHANGES

Civilian and military employees are no longer subject to a percentage limit on the amount they may

contribute to a regular Thrift Savings Plan account.

They may contribute the full amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service annual elective deferral limit, which is \$15,000 for 2006.

Open seasons were eliminated July 1, 2005, so employees may start, change, stop or resume their TSP contributions at any time (except those in the 6-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal).

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123013432>

GAS CRUNCH, CARPOOL CURE

To help members of the 433rd Airlift Wing battle the high cost of fuel, Mr. Miguel Killingbeck, from the 433rd Operations Group, is helping wing members identify people to share a ride with.

Those interested in the 433rd AW carpool program can sign up for UTAs, during the week or both. Mr. Killingbeck will match interested people with those who live in the same area, want to share a ride and reduce the cost of driving to work.

For more information call 925-7865 or email thomas.killingbeck@lackland.af.mil

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ONLY Government Travel Expenses	Letter of Reprimand
Split Disbursement on the Travel Voucher	Payroll Deductions
Pay the monthly bill in full	Discharge

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Who's

Who

in

the...



Alamo Wing



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford

Master Sgt. James Golucke, NCOIC Aerospace Ground Equipment Technician, performs maintenance check of equipment that is used to support the aeromedical evacuation mission.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Capt. Frances Robertson and daughter Celine share a hug in mommy's office just before the Christmas holidays.



Courtesy Photo

Master Sgt. Princess Miller with the 433rd Airlift Wing command section enjoys getting out on a sunny weekend for a scenic cruise with her husband and their other friends with motorcycles.

Sexual Assault

New policy provides victims assistance

By Bo Joyner

Citizen Airman

Military members who are victims of sexual assault now have the option of making a confidential report and receiving medical assistance without involving the military investigative process.

A new Department of Defense policy establishes sexual assault response coordinators or SARCs at all military installations, including Air Force Reserve bases. SARCs assist people who want to report sexual assault, without involving law enforcement, and need assistance accessing military and civilian community support.

Maj. Denise Thompson, chief of behavioral health at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., said interim SARCs were trained and in place at all AFRC bases in June. Permanent coordinators

were expected to be hired at all locations by Aug. 8.

In 2004, the Air Force reported 456 sexual assaults committed by or against its members. Officials estimate more than 80 percent of sexual assaults go unreported and one in three females and one in six males are sexually victimized in their lifetime.

One reason victims hesitate to report is they don't want to get involved in law enforcement investigations or criminal trials. The new DOD policy allows military victims time to determine if they want to go through an investigation and trial.

"To encourage victims to report sexual assault, DOD has mandated that an option of making a restricted (confidential) report be available to all military personnel," the major said.

This option allows military victims of sexual assault to make a confidential report to a SARC, she said. It provides military members an avenue for

medical care and counseling, along with access to a victim advocate, but does not initiate the investigative process or involve commander notification.

Air Force Reservists may report a sexual assault to a SARC at any time, but only sexual assaults that occur during military status are eligible for restricted reporting, the major said. Sexual assaults occurring while Reservists are in civilian status will be referred to a local agency for medical care and may be reported to the local authorities. However, reports of civilian sexual assaults don't require a report to a commander.

"With restricted reporting, the victim is provided information regarding the collection of evidence," Major Thompson said. "Any evidence collected is maintained for up to one year, allowing the victim to choose to have an investigation at a later date. Only

(See, Sexual Assault ... Page 9)

UTA SCHEDULE

January

A UTA Jan. 7-8

B UTA Jan. 21-22

February

A UTA Feb. 4-5

B UTA Feb. 11-12

March

A UTA March 4-5

B UTA March 18-19

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