

# ALAMO WING

Volume 54, Number 7, July 2005

433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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## Iraq, through Reserve medical troop eyes

By Tech. Sgt. Collen Roundtree

*Wing Public Affairs*

About 2,000 years ago, one Samaritan helped an injured stranger find help along a well-traveled road. In that same geographic area, several members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron here are working with about 140 members of the 59<sup>th</sup> Medical Wing from Lackland AFB, Texas, some Army medics, and a few Australians, to help those who need medical care, friends and strangers alike.

“We see everybody, Iraqi Army, Coalition soldiers and bad guys,” said Col. Russ Turner, 59<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical-Dental Group Commander, currently deployed and in command of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Medical Group at Balad AB, Iraq.

“We don’t turn anybody away because there is nowhere to go.”

In the waiting room of the emergency clinic sit Marines, U.S. and Iraqi soldiers, and Iraqi women and children on any given day.

Each of the Iraqi nationals first went to the Army clinic at one of the entry gates where Army medics assessed their condition and need for treatment. Those who need more than minor treatments are brought in on the hospital bus for further care or diagnosis. Those needing extensive care are admitted, treated and spend time in recovery until they are at a point the local hospital in the City of Balad can take over.

“We have a great working relationship with the hospital in (the city of) Balad,” said Colonel Turner, who acknowledges the medical practices and available treatment technology for Iraqi civilians is different from what the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH can offer. For serious wounds and illnesses, the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH can simply offer more.

Not just civilians and friendly forces receive care here. Suspected insurgents under guard receive the same quality of care as U.S. and Coalition forces.

Whom they treat is not as important as how well the joint medical professionals provide treatment.

“I take it as I go, day to day,” said



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Collen Roundtree

Maj. Diane Walcutt, a nurse with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron, checks the monitoring equipment attached to an Army soldier as he receives treatment at the 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad AB, Iraq. Major Walcutt was recently chosen by the Army’s 44<sup>th</sup> Medical Command as the Emergency Medical Nurse Consultant for the entire theater of operations.

Staff Sgt. Cameron Davis, a medical technician deployed from the 859<sup>th</sup> Medical Surgical Group Squadron. “I don’t focus on who they are (the patients here). They are all human.”

(See *Through medical eyes*, 4)

# Workers merit fair treatment, recognition

By Col. John Fobian

433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Commander

At Commander's Call in December, the Military Equal Opportunity office distributed passwords to complete the Unit Climate Assessment survey on-line. Of the almost 3,000



members in the Alamo Wing, only 11 percent responded. The percentage was lower than we desired, but the responses we received are an indicator of how well we are doing.

The survey explored six areas within the Wing: job environment, positive motivation, recognition, peer relationships, unit leadership, perception of the freedom to address concerns and fair treatment, discrimination and sexual harassment.

Overall, the scores were positive in all areas, but a couple of areas stand out as a concern to me for follow-up.

## Positive Motivation

Recognition has mixed results with room for improvement. Our people are motivated to do their jobs and are proud of the work they do. However, some members said they are not recognized for their work. Some even feel the people receiving the awards are not the most deserving.


Leadership at all levels can affect change in this area. Recognition can be made in various forms, both formal and informal. An extra effort to reward our folks can go a long way towards reinforcing their motivation and unit pride.

## Fair Treatment

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment are directly addressed through commander policy letters and

governing instructions. While not widespread, there is an indication that racial, sexual and religious jokes were occurring in the workplace. This is of great concern. What often starts as innocent joke-telling can lead to discriminatory action or sexual harassment.

Responses indicate that some people knew the policies, but still participated or condoned adverse behavior. Each member deserves to be treated with respect and work in an environment free of discrimination and sexual harassment. This is a responsibility shared by everyone in the Wing.

I'm extremely proud of our members and the very high level of participation supporting the Wing's efforts worldwide. Everyone is part of this proud team fighting the Global War on Terrorism. 

## Alamo Wing

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All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Public Affairs Office of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas 78236-0112, (210) 925-5194, DSN: 945-5194

Submissions for print may be emailed to 433aw.pa@lackland.af.mil. Submission deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to the publication date.

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## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle "Von" Seggern  
433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Chaplain Section

### Intervention

*"The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, He was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so His own arm worked salvation for Him, and His own righteousness sustained Him."- Isaiah 59: 15-16*

Everyone is a leader in the Alamo Wing. Everyone steps up to the plate each day to swing the bat for the sake of our God-given rights. The Nation places its confidence in a team that ranks #1. Both military and civilian members of the Wing do their best to be the best. God bless you for your intervention into the world's cry against tyranny and terrorism.

God wants to intervene in your life. He wants to make a difference in every situation you face. All the Lord needs is an invitation. Would your life be better if you or your situation would change? Are there family and friends that you know who could enjoy life more? Please pray. Ask God to intervene. Do you have questions about God's intervention? Please call the Chaplain Section at 5-3556 if you do. May God enter your life and the lives of your family and friends and bring His peace and joy.

### 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Religious Services

Protestant worship and Catholic Mass are held each UTA Sunday. Services are conducted in the new Chaplain Section on the second floor of building 910. Please check your e-mail for service times. 433<sup>rd</sup> Chaplain staff can be reached at 925-3556.

# Base Fitness Center: use it or lose it

By Elsa Martinez

Wing Public Affairs

The next time you pull your Reserve weekend, take advantage of the fitness and dining services offered especially to the members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing. Reservists must use those services for them to continue.

The Warhawk Fitness Center opens at 6:45 a.m. on UTA weekends to provide a variety of fitness services solely for Reserve forces personnel.

“Normal operating hours start at 9 a.m.,” said Senior Master Sgt. Gail Boldt, 433<sup>rd</sup> Services Flight superintendent. “But on reserve weekends, our Services personnel open the facility at the earlier start time. This enables Reserve troops to keep up with their fitness needs.”

“The Warhawk offers fitness training over drill weekends for all Reservists,” said Master Sgt. Lewis Gafford, 433<sup>rd</sup> AW fitness coordinator. “The early start time allows wing troops to come in, do weights or any other fitness training and use the showers. Having the Warhawk open



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kat Bailey

Senior Airman Kimberly Vasquez, 433 LRS, signs the unit roster at the front desk before heading into the gym for her fitness test. Only 433AW members can use the gym before 9 a.m. on UTA weekends.

for us in the early morning also means we can now administer fitness testing in the coolest part of the day and avoid the mid-summer Texas heat.”

Just make sure you are carrying your military I.D. card to show at the door. “No I.D., no entry,” says Master Sgt. Ken Holloway, Services Training Manager, 433<sup>rd</sup> SVF. “The 37<sup>th</sup>

Training Wing allows us the courtesy of using their facility. That means each member must show their I.D. card at the door and sign in at the front desk.”

“Signing in is essential,” Sergeant Boldt said, “because then our Services Flight can track how many Wing troops use this facility. With enough Reservists using the Warhawk, we can justify the Wing’s continued use for the future.”

The Warhawk features a swimming pool, fitness equipment, Morale, Welfare and Recreation center and a health clinic, available for Reservists.

The fitness facility also has outdoor recreation equipment for rent through the outdoor recreation service at the former Kelly Golf Shack.

Wing reservists are also invited to dine at the Bluebonnet and Gott dining facilities during UTAs.

“Both dining halls are open to enlisted personnel free of charge for three meals daily while on drill status,” Sergeant Boldt said.

Troops should present a completed AF Form 40A if on a re-scheduled drill.

Officers may also dine at these



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kat Bailey


Senior Master Sgt. Jana Kaiser, 433 LRS, shows her military I.D. to Master Sgt. Kenneth Holloway, 433 SVF, at Warhawk Fitness Center. The Warhawk now opens at 6:45 a.m. exclusively for use by Reservists thanks to the 433 SVF.

facilities, but only while in military status. They must pay for the meal plus a surcharge.

The Bluebonnet also boasts a Sunday brunch that starts at 6:30 a.m. Both facilities provide a comfortable eating atmosphere and offer three or four entrees plus a short-order line.

To ensure dining entitlements, units must provide 433<sup>rd</sup> SVF with an estimate of their troops planning to use the dining halls for the next drill weekend. The unit should provide a count no later than close of business on Sunday of the UTA prior to the following drill weekend.

“A typical drill weekend means more than 600 meals are provided to 433<sup>rd</sup> personnel,” Sergeant Boldt said. “Not providing an accurate count means that either or both eating facilities won’t have enough food to feed all our troops. Or worse, an over-estimate means that too much food will go to waste unnecessarily.”

“The 37<sup>th</sup> Training Wing provides us with great services and supports us in many ways. Making use of these facilities and programs is one way of saying thank you,” said Lt. Col. Peter Tharp, 433<sup>rd</sup> SVF commander. 

# Through medical eyes ... *Continued from page 1*

The humanity of the caregivers is apparent when they have a few minutes to think about the job they are doing.

"I've learned maybe I'm not as strong as I thought I was," said Maj. Diane Walcutt, head emergency room nurse at the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH deployed from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron. "I guess things bother me more than I thought they would."

However, it is not the magnitude of treating war injuries, it's the heart of each soldier being treated that gets to her. The fact that they worry more about others than what they are going through is the hard part for her and many of the others working at the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH.

She remembers a young man who struck her as remarkable because even as injured as he was, his main concern was making sure his wedding ring was close to him as he went into surgery.

"He kept telling us how beautiful his wife was," said Major Walcutt with a few silent tears.

"He said you better save my other leg or my wife will be POed," said Lt. Col. Laurie Hall, head nurse of the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH. "By the time he went into surgery we knew he was going to lose both."

Those injured are amazingly able to accept the injuries they receive.

"Its incredible, the resiliency these guys have in coming to grips with their injuries," Colonel Hall said. "They are happy to be alive."

Colonel Hall and Major Walcutt both remark on how most of the patients they see just want to get patched up enough to go back to their units.

"Its nothing like you'll see in the civilian world," Colonel Hall, deployed from the 59<sup>th</sup> MDW Wilford Hall, said.

"This isn't the Saturday-night, knife-and-gun club you get on week-end nights in the trauma center at

Wilford Hall," Colonel Hall said. "These injuries are from accidents and Improvised Explosive Devices to people who are trying to do some good."

And although the current statistics indicate 91 percent of those wounded survive their wounds, the reality of war is not everyone survives.

"No one dies by themselves here and we wish the families could know that," said Colonel Hall. "We wish the wives and moms could know that they are not alone. When there is nothing else you can do for them, you stay with them until it is done."

The emotional stress the nurses at the 32<sup>nd</sup> AFTH feel is a very real thing. They identify with their patients and know how to begin to deal with a patient's combat stress-related issues. They also have coping skills to deal with their own combat stress issues.

"We all take care of each other," said Capt. Tse Warner, a ward nurse at the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH. "We exercise, run, workout, talk, chat, joke, goof around a lot to cut the stress."

Captain Warner is wearing a masking tape, nametag labeling him as Captain T. Today everyone has a nickname on masking tape, along with their rank taped to their hospital scrubs. Some of the nicknames are old and some earned on the job.

Despite the inherent stresses of working in a battlefield hospital, there are some very positive aspects these medical professionals are taking away with them.

"I'll take home the ability to handle anything, like walking into an emergency room filled with patients at home," said Major Walcutt who works as a civilian trauma nurse at Wilford Hall. "I don't think I'm going to sweat the small stuff."

One concern on the mind of Major Walcutt is what the folks back home think without the advantage of the direct feedback she has through the

Iraqi civilians she treats.

"They (people in the U.S.) are afraid we aren't doing any good here and we are," Major Walcutt said.

One Iraqi National Guard soldier, through an interpreter, said the care at the 332<sup>nd</sup> AFTH "is very good."


'Ali', his name changed to protect him from possible insurgent retaliation, said he was on duty about three months ago with U.S. forces against insurgents when someone from the house they were approaching shot him in the abdomen.

"In three days I will go home to recover," Ali said. "Then, I will go back in the Iraqi National Guard."

Ali's family visits him at the hospital often. His family is why he stays in the ING. He wants to give them freedom.

"Yes, I voted," Ali said. "Now it's free (my country) and it's very good."

Like many Airmen in the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Ali has decided to reenlist and spend his life serving his country.

"I'll keep extending (my term of service) until I'm a very old man," Ali said with a huge smile through the hospital interpreter. 



Make sure your government travel card is used **only** for travel expenses and **only** when you are TDY. Remember, there is no such thing as "paying it off before they notice." Protect your career, protect your card.

# New law bumps SGLI payouts to \$400K

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons  
Wing Public Affairs

**D**efense Department and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush on May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers with traumatic injuries, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

"Everyone will probably see a \$1 increase for the trauma benefit," said Senior Master Sgt. Kathleen Null, 433<sup>rd</sup> MPF superintendent.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, Dec. 1. The legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, Mr. Wurtz said.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for service members who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. The benefit does not apply

to servicemembers suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Mr. Wurtz said.

Servicemembers opting for maximum SGLI coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 — will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Mr. Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

"In the past, the increase in premiums was automatic," Sergeant Null said.

In a new twist introduced through the supplemental legislation, service members with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of people who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated beneficiary when the person purchases less than the maximum coverage.

"We're not sure yet what form the spousal approval for lower benefits will take," said Senior Master Sgt. Ilee Ersch, 433<sup>rd</sup> MPF superintendent ART.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of

Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.


Because the rates have not changed service members who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Mr. Wurtz said, except for the \$1 traumatic SGLI premium.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Mr. Wurtz said.

Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help family members of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved ones during recovery.

"These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Mr. Wurtz said.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected service members will not be charged retroactive payments, he said. DOD will absorb that cost.

VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program. 

(Information provided by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service)

## Financial tips for deployment

### Money-saving ideas for lengthy TDYs or deployments

**Auto Insurance:** An upcoming deployment also may prompt changes to auto insurance. If someone else will drive your car while you are deployed, you may need to add that person to your auto insurance policy. However, if your vehicle will be properly stored, you may be able to save money by reducing your coverage, depending on state laws.

**Track down discounts:** Sometimes being deployed can actually save you money. Many financial services companies offer special discounts for deployed military personnel, such as no international fees on ATM cards and reduced credit card interest rates.

**Put routine tasks on auto-pilot:** Set up direct deposits on your paychecks and have recurring charges auto-drafted from your account.

*Information from an article by Rich Strickler, Stars and Stripes Military Newspaper, Sunday, June 19, 2005*

# Role model embodies Air Force values

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Wing Public Affairs

**W**hat prepares, builds, maintains and ends up making a vital difference in the future of our nation? The answer is two-fold — a maintainer and a mentor.

Senior Airman Alex M. Seguin, a 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance specialist, mentors a 10<sup>th</sup> grader from Southwest High school in San Antonio.

Activated for about one-third of his enlistment to date, Airman Seguin works the night shift, takes on an engineering degree during the day, studies the Filipino martial art of Pakita Tersia Kali in between, plays piano, and mentors Robert Barrientes, sophomore from Southwest, every week.

“Once a week we talk about life, focus on math and ways to meet goals,” Airman Seguin said. “Not everyone has a good role model, so I try to be a good one.”

As a maintainer, Airman Seguin enjoys his job because every time an aircraft takes to the air or returns home from a mission, he knows that he and his wingmen have made another safe mission possible. He knows people around the world depend on whatever that C-5 is carrying and what he does plays a major part in today’s Air Force mission.

“The coolest thing in the world is to see you’re making a difference,” he said. “...like the time we made last minute repairs to an aircraft that later brought a young transplant patient from Alaska to Wilford Hall to receive a new heart.”

On the work bench, Airman Seguin uses his mechanical skills to build aircraft parts. As a mentor, he builds trust and respect with those he reaches out too.

Airman Seguin finds it rewarding to




Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

**Sparks fly as Senior Airman Alex M. Seguin, 433<sup>rd</sup> MXS structural maintenance specialist, removes the rough edges of a titanium square slated to become part of a C-5 Galaxy. Airman Seguin finds satisfaction in maintaining the Air Force’s largest weapon system and in mentoring a child at Southwest High school here in San Antonio.**

help his student learn to fly towards a successful future. Robert is interested in working with computers and in artwork.

Airman Seguin uses his academic skills to help Robert with algebra and geometry. He uses a highly structured method to run through specific problems, improve the learning processes and provide memory reinforcement for new and old mathematical concepts.

“We do math drills and narrow down the number of wrong answers each time,” Airman Seguin said. “It’s great to see improvement.”

Whether he’s building hydraulic service panels or building character in highly motivated people, Airman Seguin shines as an example of service before self and excellence, keeping our nation strong through air power and mentorship. 

# When three worlds collide, nothing explodes

By Tech. Sgt. Colleen Roundtree

Wing Public Affairs

From the drawing board to the desert dust, one Reserve Airman here has a unique perspective of being able to see several angles in the hunt for a way to effectively battle improvised explosive devices.

As an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Keith Clutter has the corporate knowledge of some of the world's most preeminent research theorists in the field of mechanical engineering at his fingertips. As an entrepreneur devoted to mitigating the effects of explosions and chemical spills, Mr. Clutter, CEO of Analytical and Computational Energetics Inc., has a front-row view of those theories in action. In addition, as Major Clutter, 433<sup>rd</sup> Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight chief, he is the end-user of current technologies out in the field against roadside Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's).

All of Major Clutter's careers hinge around what he does as a member of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron's, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight. And all of them started before the possibility of hostile explosive acts occupied the forefront of the planning processes of many of America's emergency response planners in government and private organizations.

Although each career has its own angle, together they all have the same goal.

"To protect people and property," Major Clutter said is the top priority in all of his careers.

Although they have a common goal, his different work places have differ-

ent personal motivators and rewards. "A lot of people think people in education are the people who already know everything," Major Clutter said. "I'm drawn to education because it challenges you to continue to learn and for the rewards of seeing students achieve their goals."

The satisfaction values and realizations of intangible payoffs are different with each job.

"The business is neat because you're actually helping people solve problems," Major Clutter said. "The school gives a long-term return; the business gives an immediate return."

Major Clutter said his reward in the Reserve is getting to employ all of the knowledge from the reference material and the research process out in the end user's environment where success is measured in how many lives are not lost.

"I think I'm fortunate (in the Reserve) because I'm motivated to serve my country, but I get to serve it by doing a unique job that you can't really do anywhere else," Major Clutter said.

It was this unique job that motivated him to take a hard look at how the research and development for IED detection equipment is handled.

Because of the business world's realization that no entity is immune from an explosive attack and Major Clutter's personal experience with roadside IEDs during a deployment to Iraq last year, Major Clutter looked at improving the way IEDs are detected. His company is using a thought process not previously explored by current technologies which he hopes will prove to work even though the

enemy is constantly adapting their tactics based on past responses.

Major Clutter is an end user and his solid academic and research background give him a fuller perspective on detection of IEDs than those who operate strictly in the research and development environments.

"A lot of people involved in the R&D world really don't have operational experience. One thing I'm able to do is help look at ideas that are developed in the R&D and academic world and answer 'Is it feasible for employment overseas or here in the states?'" Major Clutter said. "We need this (flip side of the coin view)."

"Having actually worked on roadside IEDs, knowing how they are configured and placed, helped me formulate a detection system that will probably be more robust, reliable and effective based on the predominant characteristics of the threat," Major Clutter said.

After one IED exploded very close to the convoy he was traveling in, Major Clutter has another motivator, the safety of the men and women on the ground, armed with a product and the knowledge that he could be one of them again.

"I've got a personal interest in finding stuff that works ... I may find myself out there using it one day and if it doesn't work it stays in the back of the truck," Major Clutter said. "Professionally I'm more passionate about potential projects, techniques or technology that can help either defense or homeland security to make sure things don't waste time and money, and don't waste lives." 🏠

Lipka sold secrets for \$30,000  
Pelton sold secrets for \$30,000  
Boone sold secrets for \$200,000  
Walker sold secrets for \$1 million  
Ames sold secrets for \$2.7 million

**For everything else there's...**

OPSEC Program managers  
Capt. Bruce Hill 925-5194  
Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Knight 925-7080



# Awards and Reenlistments

## Bronze Star Medal

Lt. Col. Charles M. Combs, AMXS

## Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. John Grigsby, 68 AS  
Lt. Col. Robert Mcvey, 68 AS  
Lt. Col. Mark Melcher, MSS  
Lt. Col. Michael Ratcliff, 68 AS  
Lt. Col. Lyle Von Seggern, AW  
Maj. Walter Bagwell, 68 AS  
Maj. Jimmie Brooks, 68 AS  
Maj. Ernestine Cuellar, ASTS  
SMSgt. Felisa Landez, AMDS  
SMSgt. Felix Lara, OG  
MSgt. John Hinshaw, TRS  
MSgt. Velda Robinson, AMXS  
TSgt. Manuel Garcia, Jr., MXS

## AF Commendation Medal

Capt. Jason Alexander, 68 AS  
Capt. Walter Hunt, 68 AS  
Capt. Steven Schimelpfening, 68 AS  
Capt. Lucinda Valenti, AW  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Elizabeth McDonald, AES  
MSgt. Joseph Bialowas, AMXS  
MSgt. Manuel Garcia, OG  
MSgt. Curtins Houy, LRS  
MSgt. Laurence Tilghman, AMXS  
TSgt. Jose Garces, MXS  
TSgt. Lori Darling, SFS  
TSgt. Adam Guerrero, AMXS  
SSgt. Victoria Fulton, TRS  
SSgt. John Hendon, MXS

## AF Achievement Medal

Capt. Elizabeth Wood, AES  
MSgt. George Benavides, AMXS  
MSgt. David Chambers, AMXS  
MSgt. David Contreras, AMXS  
MSgt. Lewis Gafford, AMXS  
MSgt. Billie Gaines, Jr., AMXS  
MSgt. Jesus Gonzalez, AMXS  
MSgt. Edward Gutierrez, AMXS  
TSgt. Vincent Canchola, AMXS  
TSgt. James Cruz, AMXS  
TSgt. Jennifer Martin, AMXS  
TSgt. Jose Rivas, AMXS  
TSgt. Armando Rodriguez, AMXS  
TSgt. Michael Vaquera, AMXS  
TSgt. Quentin Wolf, AMXS  
SSgt. Larry Evans, AMXS  
SSgt. Robert Fiel, AMXS  
SSgt. Gerald Fields, AES  
SrA Jared Harris, AMXS  
SrA Colby McCune, AMXS

## Reenlistments - April 2005

MSgt. Tony Valdez, 307 RH  
MSgt. David Chambers, MXS  
MSgt. Olga Flores, CES  
MSgt. Marcos Hernandez, MXS  
MSgt. Paula Lovelady-Betton, MXG  
MSgt. Julius Murrell, SFS  
MSgt. Raul Orosco, MSS  
MSgt. Ruth Patterson, AW  
MSgt. Richard Perez, Jr., CES  
MSgt. Steven Tyler, ASTS  
TSgt. Monica Adamson, MDS  
TSgt. Gerald Aleman, 307 RH  
TSgt. Juan Buitron, 307 RH

TSgt. James Circe, CF  
TSgt. Tracy Eubanks, TRS  
TSgt. Charles Garcia, MOS  
TSgt. Tony Mitchell, MXS  
TSgt. Lorenzo Monreal, 307 RH  
TSgt. Ferdinand Rivera, 307 RH  
SSgt. Robert Ayala, AES  
SSgt. Allyson Campman, AMDS  
SSgt. Johnny Castilleja, Jr., AMDS  
SSgt. Daniel Garcia, AES  
SSgt. Oscar Ramirez Iruegas, 74 APS  
SSgt. Jeremiah Olguin, MXS  
SSgt. Francisco Pizana, 307 RH  
SSgt. Matthew Webber, ASTS



Photo by Capt. Robert Acosta, 433 ALCF  
Maj. Michelle Barrett, 433 ALCF commander, points to Al Sahra AB in Tikrit, Iraq, where 11 members of her unit deployed to set up airfield sustainment operations for the Army. On the June A UTA, they each received Army Commendation Medals for their performance.

## Wing Quarterly Award Winners

Col. John Fobian, 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Commander, congratulates the following AMN/NCO/SNCO award winners for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. The competition was keen and all personnel are to be commended for a job well done. The winners in the respective categories are:

**Airman Category:** SrA Taylor Houston, MSS

**NCO Category:** SSgt Russell Dalziel, MSS

**Senior NCO Category:** MSgt Gerry Alfafara, MOS



# NASA uses APS for mission to Costa Rica

By Tech. Sgt. Kat Bailey

Wing Public Affairs

Getting people and things into space is NASA's specialty. Getting people and things around the globe is the area of expertise for Air Force aerial port professionals.

So, when NASA recently needed to move essential scientific research equipment from Houston to Costa Rica, they sent a request to the 433rd Airlift Control Element requesting aircraft and personnel support, including aerial porters.

"Aerial porters directly support the ALCE," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Pacheco, NCOIC, 74th Aerial Port Squadron Special Handling section.

"They prepare the cargo. They prepare all the load plans and all the documents for that load, especially when you have hazardous materials. Anything with a battery or gas, flammable liquids, oxidizers - they all have to be packaged a certain way and loaded in a certain place in the aircraft," Sergeant Pacheco said.

The 74th APS sent out a Rapid Reaction Team of about six people to look at the task ahead.

"The team went to Houston to help palletize all the scientific equipment and we had to know all those little

details ahead of time so we could create a load plan," said Senior Master Sgt. Ross Suniga, NCOIC, Air Terminal Operations Center.

"We also have to know what type of mission the equipment is going on."

The data gathered during this particular task - high-altitude ozone testing - would support critical research for developing the international green zone agreement designed to protect Central America's environment.

It was a scientific mission to a foreign country and required special considerations as the people of 74th APS had to be fully prepared to deal with the Costa Rican customs agency and any diplomatic sensitivities.

Staff Sgt. Freddie Kondoff is a special handler with the 74th APS who deals with materials that must pass through various countries' customs agencies.

His third trip to Costa Rica in support of the NASA mission, he was well-versed in the international relations of the country.

"All the paperwork had to be filled out correctly and then filed with appropriate office before we could begin operations," Sgt. Kondoff said.

"The Costa Rican government was very particular about trying to keep its environment safe," Sergeant Pacheco


said. "They don't have the processors that we do in the U.S. so any extra fuel or waste had to be brought back with us.

"We also had to have the proper personal documentation, which included official U.S. government passports in addition to our civilian ones," he said.

All of this was expected by the experienced aerial porter but Sergeant Pacheco did say this trip had one unexpected element, though not an unpleasant one.

"The U.S. ambassador had a little reception for us to meet the government officials in the area," he said. "We were thrust into the spotlight as representatives of the U.S. Air Force. They didn't know we were Reservists or even the difference between Reserve and active-duty."

Under the Total Force concept, the 74th APS, along with 43 other Air Force Reserve Command aerial port units, augments Air Mobility Command in passenger and cargo processing and loading procedures on military and commercial aircraft.

The Reservists in the 74th APS are qualified to perform aerial port operations worldwide, providing a large percentage of the Department of Defense's aerial port wartime resources. 

## UTA SCHEDULE

### July

A: 9-10

B: 23-24

### August

A: 6-7

B: 20-21

### September

A: 10-11

B: 17-18

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*To carry a grudge  
is like being stung to death  
by one bee.*

- William Walton, composer  
(1902-1983)

Do you have a favorite quote? Perhaps one of your own? E-mail to 433aw.pa@lackland.af.mil with the subject line: Quote for AW.



# News bites...

## ARCHERY

Those interested in joining the 3-D Archery club at Lackland AFB, contact Tech. Sgt. Carter Goth at 925-6576.

## HONOR GUARD

The 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Honor Guard is recruiting members. Contact the Honor Guard NCOIC at 671-2410.

## SECURITY CLEARANCES

Starting Aug. 1, all 433<sup>rd</sup> Unit Security Managers must schedule appointments for their members for security clearances with the 37<sup>th</sup> SFS Personnel Security Section at 671-3040. The 37 SFS/SFAIP will process scheduled clearances at their location.

## COMING HOME

Any deployed members returning home from any duty (mandated or volunteer) they out-processed for, must report to their unit and MPF upon return for re-in-processing. This is very important for accountability purposes (Readiness, 925-3492).

## SECOND SKINS

MCU-2/P series mask Second Skins are currently being issued by Supply to all units. Once received, do not have personnel attempt to install them. Installation instructions will be incorporated into NBCC Defense training (personnel can bring theirs to class).

Training will be provided to Unit Deployment Managers, FSTR Representatives or other unit designated personnel. Questions or concerns can be directed to Tech. Sgt. MacDonald at 925-6576.

## MISSIONS TICKETS FUNDRAISER

Come join us at the S.A. Missions game Aug 20. The first pitch will be thrown by the 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Group commander. For tickets, call Senior Master Sgt. Banda at 925-7381 or Tech. Sgt. Marrs at 925-7868. Tickets are \$7.00 and proceeds go to the 433<sup>rd</sup> Lone Star Jubilee.

## HOUSE CLEANER FEES REIMBURSABLE

House cleaner fees are reimbursable when renting or using an apartment, house, mobile home, travel trailer or recreational vehicle while on temporary duty (JFTR Chap 4 Para U4125). In the absence of receipts, if they are impractical to obtain, members may submit a statement explaining the circumstances (JFTR, Para U2510). For more information, please review the JFTR at <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/>

## LODGING NO-SHOWS

No-shows for lodging are a problem. If you need to cancel your UTA billeting reservation, you must do so before 6:00 p.m. on the

reserved day. Be sure you receive a cancellation number. No-show listings will be sent to units at the end of each billing cycle.

## FREE CREDIT REPORT

Under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act passed by Congress in response to soaring identify theft claims, consumers can request one free credit report every 12 month-period from each of the three national credit reporting agencies, Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. They must use a new toll-free telephone number, (877) 322-8228, the annual credit report web site, or a special mailing address -

Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, Ga. 30348-5281.

## OPERATION FREEDOM CALLS

SBC and Pioneer will be sponsoring video conference calls through the Operation Freedom Calls Foundation for San Antonio area Armed Forces personnel. Dates and locations will be determined by the Operation Freedom Calls Foundation. If you or someone you know has a military family member or friend stationed at Al Assad, Taji, or Fallujah, please contact Ms. Tish Gonzales, 433<sup>rd</sup> Family Support Center at 925-3650.

## Vacancies in 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing

### INTERNAL

Current Civil Service Employees Self-Nominate at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil) Vacancies Posted Daily

MSS GS-0203-07/ART Human Resources Asst (Mil)  
307RH WG-6910-07/ART Materials Expediter

### EXTERNAL

(Submit Application to HQ AFRC/DPC-SEU)

AMXS	WG-8852-10/ART	Aircraft Mechanic
AMXS	WG-2892-10/ART	Aircraft Electrician
MXS	WG-8852-10/ART	Aircraft Mechanic
MXS	GS-0303-05/ART	Admin. Support Assistant
MXS	WG-5378-10/ART	Powered Sup. Sys. Mechanic
MXS	WG-3105-09/ART	Fabric Worker (2 vacancies)
OSS	GS-0303-05/ART	Admin. Support Assistant
68 AS	GS-0303-07/ART	Operations Technician
MSS	GS-0203-07/ART	Human Resources Asst (Mil)

### OFFICER

PA	GS-1035-12/ART	Public Affairs Officer
68 AS	GS-2181-12/ART	Airplane Pilot

# Who's who in the Alamo Wing...



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

**REAL JAG --** Lt. Col. Peter Gedraitis, Wing Staff Judge Advocate, advises wing Airman about legal concerns. His job is kept interesting by the variety of challenges faced on each UTA. He has a positive effect on mission readiness by ensuring compliance with the law. As a civilian, he works as an assistant general council for an Air Force Agency.

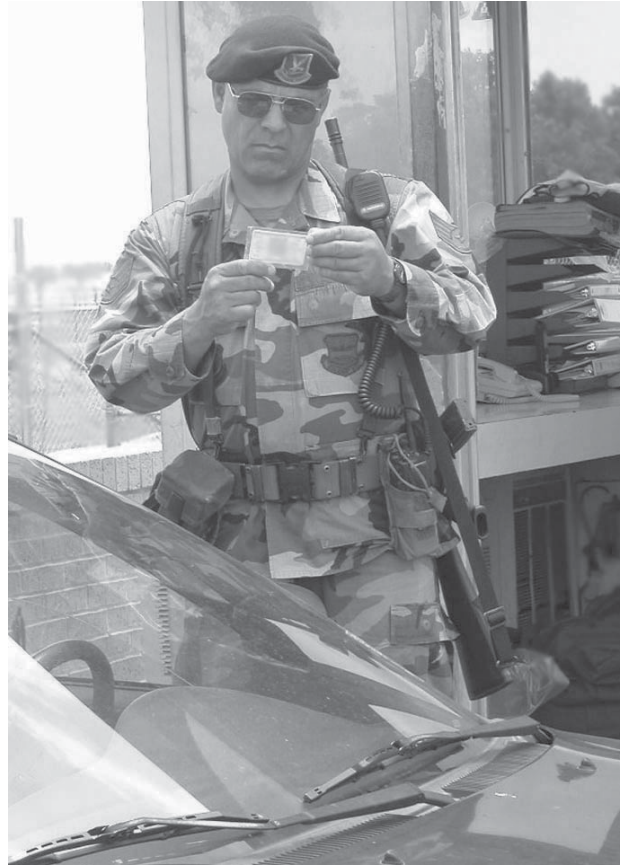


Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

**VOLUNTEER DEFENDER --** Staff Sgt. Higenio Longoria, 74th APS loading specialist, checks IDs at a Lackland gate as part of a voluntary additional duty. He recognized the need for help and volunteered to fill it. He's worked as a security forces augmentee for the past 18 months.

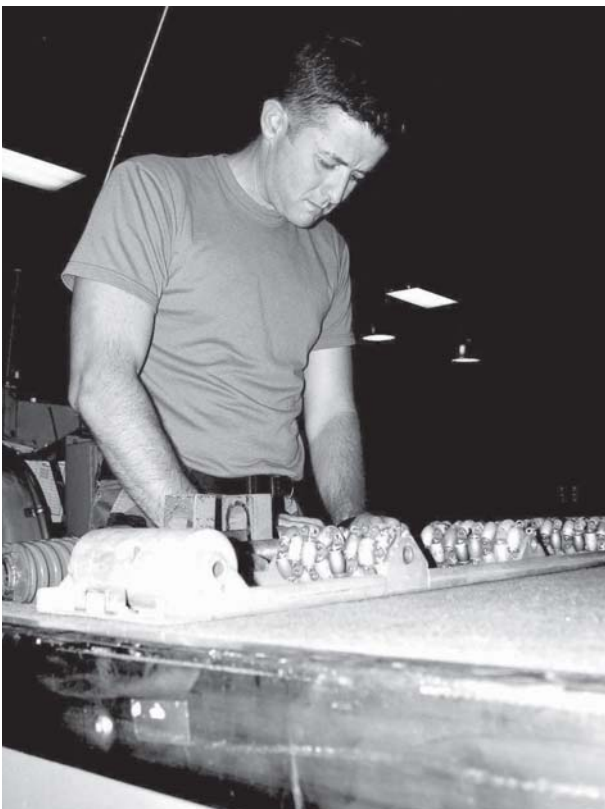


Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

**ROLLIN', ROLLIN' --** Senior Airman J.D. Scherwitz, 433rd MXS structural maintenance specialist, builds a new set of omni-rollers for a C-5 entrance ramp. Airman Scherwitz is proud to be part of the team that keeps the mission flying.



Photo by Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

**WELCOME TO WING --** Tech. Sgt. Nelda Viertel, chief of customer service, in-processes newcomers during the unit training assembly. She maintains records, issues identification cards and provides customer support.

# Hero to role model perception change

By Col. John Douglas  
— 433<sup>rd</sup> MXG Commander

Often, our childhood hero is someone we carry with us without the direct knowledge of the hero, most of our entire lives (I know John Wayne didn't know of my hero worship of him).

What is it that turns an ordinary person into a hero? Character? An act of caring or nurturing? Is it something he says, more than does? Do we pick a person to emulate, such as a sports star, so we can "be like Mike" or "The Duke"?

I'm proud to say one of my heroes is Tom Helm, and it's probably for the reasons many of you have come to know and love Mr. Helm.

Most have enjoyed his breakfast tacos, or benefited from how hard he works to keep your important documents "board ready". In case you don't know, he's a bit of a stickler for proper punctuation, grammar, bullet statements, and taking care of the troops. You may not care what your EPR or OPR says, but Tom sure does.

He came to the 433<sup>rd</sup> many years ago and quickly built a distinguished reputation for caring leadership, wise counsel, and a goal to serve. One of

his goals is that each of the Wing members should benefit from his

efforts, and he will fight hard for each of you. He also uses tough love...don't go to Mr. Helm with some whiney problem – he will show you to the door very quickly, and ask you to come back when you are ready to deal with the issue professionally (must come from having been a TI).

Speaking to Mr.

Helm one day, I asked him how he works so many hours, juggling so many tasks, while keeping the wing commander briefed on so many key issues. Didn't he get tired? Didn't he get overwhelmed at times?

His answer surprised me. He said he doesn't feel burdened by all he does, or that he is being over-worked.

He sincerely believes he owes the Alamo Wing a debt he can never repay...that in his hour of


need, the entire Wing came through for him, to a degree that will forever keep him in all our debts. Wow...

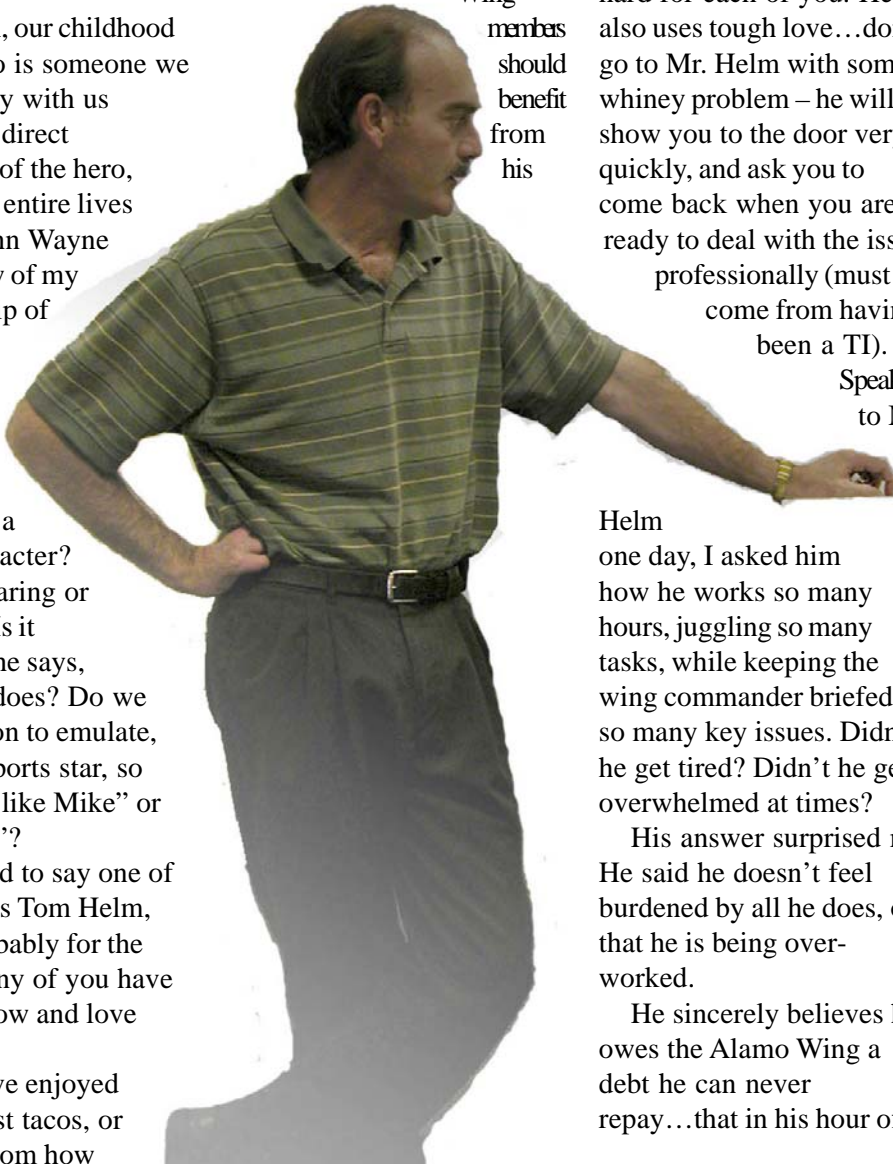
We cherish memories of our childhood heroes, for whatever reason, and we will long remember why they are important (far longer than we will retain our hair, or our youthful exuberance and healthy physiques).

Now that I can see 50 years of age from up close, I certainly don't qualify as a child anymore, but I am extremely proud to know and work with a man like Tom...he's a true hero to me, and I can't thank him enough.

I cherish my childhood memories of John Wayne, and I will cherish my adult association with Mr. Helm.

I hope each of you has a chance to experience a few moments of his time in the coming years. You will be a better person for having done so.

Thanks, Tom. 



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