

ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

433rd Airlift Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

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Civil engineers go tropical for rare training

By Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee

Wing Public Affairs

Getting an opportunity to work somewhere pleasant and build something real for friendly people is a privilege. For civil engineers, it's a rare privilege.

Civil Engineers usually can be found at bases working in the heat, repairing runways, old sewer systems, and roofs among other maintenance and repair actions. Otherwise, they can be found at either Silver Flag receiving expeditionary engineer training or at an Operational Readiness Inspection demonstrating their Base Emergency Engineer Force skills highlighting their combat capability. In the case of the 433rd and 445th Civil Engineer Squadrons recently, annual tour is being spent on the southernmost tip of the Eastern Caribbean island nation of Saint Lucia. The job is to build a facility for the Saint Lucia Special Services Unit, a branch of their police that resembles a cross between a S.W.A.T. team and the U.S. Marine Corps.

But the nice location doesn't take away from the seriousness of the job.

"It's a bonus that they are able to do the job in a nice location but the job has to come first," said Lt. Col. Richard Matthews, commander of the 433rd CES. "To their credit, each rotation has put the project a little farther ahead

of schedule."

Lt. Col. Matthews said that the first group of 12 planned annual tour rotations immediately got the project jump-started and each rotation added to the lead time on the completion schedule.

The work days are about nine hours long and the tropical sun can be "SPF-75" intense. The reservists are only promised one day off during their rotation and their time off is spent on basic important issues.

"My first thing (when I got off work) is a shower and eat," said Staff Sergeant Troy Brock, a heavy equipment operator with the 433rd CES.

Even though the project is ahead of schedule, the consistent pace is necessary due to the sheer size of the project.

"We have been tasked to construct a 5,300 square foot building which will include a dormitory, operation center, offices, laundry, restrooms, kitchen and a conference room for the marine



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Sergio Medellin, 433rd CES

Before the first trench is dug and concrete poured for the foundation on a 5,300 square-foot project, forms must be hand assembled by civil engineers in Saint Lucia.

police in Saint Lucia," Senior Master Sgt. Sergio Medellin, the project manager from the 433rd CES, describes in his weekly reports.

According to Master Sgt. Steve Roper, the U.S. Southern Command project manager, usually a project of this scope would be contracted out

(See Tropical training, 9)

Alamo Wing

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Core values vital to success of wing

Understanding the Air Force core values is an integral part of the development of our wing members. Our core values provide the unifying elements that bring the 433rd team together. They're more than just the words found on our Wing coin.

Integrity is essential. It's the inner voice, the source of self-control and the basis for trust imperative for any unit to work effectively and efficiently over the long haul. It's doing the right thing when nobody's looking. It's standing up for fairness and honesty in a world often characterized by a "me first" attitude. Integrity is not always easy to practice. It's a tough and demanding challenge. It's knowing the right thing to do and having the moral fortitude to do it. When members in a unit lose their integrity, that unit is in serious trouble.

Service before self is particularly noteworthy for all our volunteer Citizen Airmen. Selfless acts of courage and service fill our military history books. Someone once said, "There are no heroes;

only ordinary men and women caught in extraordinary circumstances." Service before self builds teamwork, inspires others and leads to incredible achievements. It enables selfless acts of courage. Effective teamwork is an important aspect of service. Effective leaders recognize that the synergy of the group is stronger than the combined efforts of each individual. That's true in any unit.

Excellence in all we do is a difficult concept. It can easily be misread as perfectionism or concern about details. On the contrary, excellence is the stuff that makes greatness. It's the difference between getting by and soaring. Excellence is the quest to achieve full potential. To constantly see problems and challenges as opportunities involves a passion for excellence. Excellence sets apart the significant from the superficial, the lasting from the temporary. Those who pursue it do so because of what is in them, not because of what others think or say or do. A commitment to excellence is neither popular nor easy. But it's essential. 

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle E. Von Seggern
Alamo Wing Chaplain

"Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish... Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of Your unfailing love."

Psalm 6: 2-4

There are days when our prayers are just like that; days when we live with agony and anguish; days when we wonder how long before God saves us. What can we do on these days? I

believe prayer is the best we can do. Open our hearts to the Lord. Pour out the pain, pour out the hurt, pour out the frustration and just say it in prayer. Next, I believe we should talk to those who believe in the Lord. We should talk to people who will pray with us.

Your Chaplain Section would like to pray with you on days when you are in agony and anguish. Call us at 925-3556. May God's love bring you and yours comfort all the days of your life.

Air Force implements cell phone restrictions

SAN ANTONIO -- The Air Force is implementing a new cell phone restriction for drivers.

Beginning Feb. 27, drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands free device. This policy is part of the Department of Defense's Joint Traffic Guidance.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles, or GOVs, at all times. No GOV drivers are permitted to talk on a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device on or off base.

"This is really a cooperative effort for everyone from the base populace to the base leaders," said Master Sgt. Gloria Ornelas, the superintendent of law enforcement for Air Force Security Forces. "I think it

is long overdue. The DOD recognized that, and we are now in line with what some states and municipalities are doing to create a safer environment for drivers."

The DOD joint traffic guidance, known as Air Force Instruction 31-201 (I), will restrict the use of cell phones while driving.

Only cell phones with hands-free devices will be allowed for use by drivers. This guidance also allows the Air Force to use portable breath screening devices as long as they conform to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.

The Defense Department's joint traffic document states: "Vehicle operators on a DOD Installation and operators of Government owned vehicles shall not use cell

phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device.

"The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices (except for hands-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. Use of those devices impairs driving and masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, and human speech.

DOD component safety guidance should note the potential for driver distractions such as eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, global positioning equipment, etc. Whenever possible this should only be done when the vehicle is safely parked."

Using a cell phone while

driving without a hands-free device will be considered a "primary offense." This means violators will be able to be stopped solely for this offense.

Drivers who violate this cell phone driving restriction will be given three assessment points against their driving records or an appropriate fine. Drivers should be aware that if two or more violations are committed, even on a single occasion, a ticket may be given to the driver for each violation.

"It was recognized at the DOD level that we needed some changes," Sergeant Ornelas said. "The winner here is the base populace. They will have more mobility while driving, a greater range of view -- in short, a safer driving environment for all."

Recruiting seeks sharp Reserve recruiters

By Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
AFRC Recruiting Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. If you're motivated and perform above normal, consider recruiting. Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is looking for people both physically and morally fit.

Recruiting isn't an ordinary 9 to 5 job. Recruiters are the Air Force Reserve in the eyes of people in their community. They represent the pride, honor and tradition of AFRC to everyone they meet.

Recruiters call on radio and television stations, visit high schools and help others make decisions that affect the rest of their lives.

The process of becoming a recruiter

starts by meeting with the local senior recruiter face to face. Applicants complete a packet to include a current physical, and the packet goes to the recruiter selection board at Robins AFB.

If approved, the next step is an evaluation and selection course at AFRC Recruiting Service headquarters.

"The course introduces prospective candidates to reserve recruiting," said Chief Master Sgt. Budell Willis, chief of recruiting's training branch. "Candidates stand an open-ranks inspection, participate in physical training, give speeches and complete memorization work.

"The challenges are progressive," he said. "Only the top candidates attend the recruiting school."


The school is six weeks at Lackland

AFB.

"This is one of the most challenging technical schools in the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Barry Kowald, an instructor.

Students learn about pay, benefits and entitlements the Air Force Reserve offers to recruits. They study advertising, community relations, public speaking and salesmanship.

New recruiters serve an initial tour on active duty for up to four years. They get to extend their tours if they meet or exceed the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, appearance, integrity, production and responsibility.

Local senior recruiters have more details about becoming a recruiter in the Air Force Reserve. (AFRC News Service) 

Activities, Air Force Issues, ways to ...

Get Involved

Air Force's largest charity campaign begins

By Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee

Wing Public Affairs

This year's Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign began February 13 and ends May 5. Part of the campaign benefits the Air Force Aid Society which has continued to reach out to the Reserve and helped many members, both mobilized and at home. This support helped in family crises, medical emergencies, and provides respite care services.

Now in its 33rd year, 100-percent of designated AFAF contributions benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. Last year, Airmen exceeded the campaign goal as they contributed more than \$7.3 million.

Airmen need look no further than the aftermath of the hurricanes that devastated portions of the southern United States to understand the

benefit the fund provides the Air Force community. Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley addressed this recently in a joint memorandum for the Air Force Assistance Fund:

"Last year, hurricanes Katrina and Rita vividly demonstrated the need for rapid and reliable emergency assistance. Our four AFAF charities -- the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation -- provided immediate financial and housing assistance to our active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and retired Air Force members. This was in addition to their normal ongoing assistance with the hardships of deployments, accidents, illness, aging and death."

General Moseley recently announced a \$5.4 million goal for this


year's fund drive.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to several Air Force-wide assistance programs that also benefit members of the 433rd AW.

For example, 433rd AW members who deployed for 30 days or more received over \$8500 in \$20 phone cards for use during deployments in 2005.

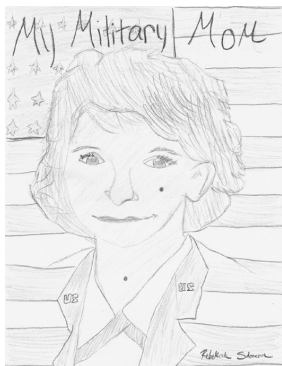
As always, contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's Voting and Fundraising Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund> or contact the wing AFAF Campaign project officers Captains Jason Alexander and Frances Robertson.

(Information for this article came from articles from the 433rd Airlift Wing AFAF Project Officers and Air Force Reserve Command AFAF representatives.) 

Congratulations to 433rd AW Art Contest winners

\$50.00 prize-winner



Rebeckah Solomon, age 12, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Rosa Cavazos

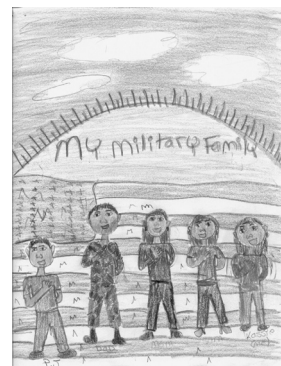
\$25.00 prize-winner



Brandon McDonald, age 8, son of Master Sgt. Shane McDonald.

Get the full color version of each online at www.433aw.afrc.af.mil

\$25.00 prize-winner



Kassandra Ruiz, age 11, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Patrick Ruiz

Talking about your work with friends and family is normal.

But there are things...

You should keep all to yourself

By Capt Bruce Hill, Jr.

433rd Public Affairs

How many times in your life have you said something and wished you could take it back?

How many times have you sent out an email or other form of written communication and wished you could take that back?

Ever since the tragedy of 9/11 there has been a heightened concern over the security of information communicated both written and oral. This concern covers a wide range of subjects spanning from casual conversation in public places and meetings in unsecured areas, to an Airman's media interview, or the content of a DOD or other publicly viewable web site.

It's important to understand OPSEC does not deal with classified information, but rather the protection of unclassified critical information. Unfortunately, once critical information is spoken or disseminated in writing, it all too often cannot be taken back.

When written:

At the National OPSEC Conference & Exhibition last year, one particular DOD organization became the model example for OPSEC practitioners who readily identified several OPSEC vulnerabilities within the organization's

numerous web sites. OPSEC practitioners discussed how adversaries could potentially use the web-posted information to target specific buildings, missions and personnel identified in project photos and written descriptions. When the critical information was pointed out, the DOD organization began removing the content in question.

Unfortunately, much of the information that gets posted to a public website, though removable from that site, is never really "gone". In many cases the removed information can be found on public web archiving sites, which OPSEC practitioners assume adversaries know about and frequently use.

Privately owned, publicly accessed web sites used as platforms to share first and second hand information on a military member's experiences, thoughts and/or expressions, (which includes blogs), can knowingly or unknowingly contain critical information that may never be taken back.

When spoken:


In an article by Roger L. Kay called "Nightmare on the 'Nerd Bird' Flight", a senior technical manager from a semiconductor manufacturer was a passenger on a public flight between San Jose, California and Austin, Texas when he overheard a man sitting

across the aisle talking to a woman in the seat in front of him. He perked up when he overheard the man worked for a direct competitor.

Jabbering freely about issues he faced in launching a new product, within the hour, the listener knew the competitor's price, the bugs in its chip and the product's anchor customer.

As soon as he was off the plane, the accidental spy called his salesman giving him the details. His company not only won the business by undercutting the competitor's price and pointed out where the flaws in its product were, the customer became pivotal in winning more business, and the other company was never able to launch its product.

It might be hard to understand, but unless you see through the eyes of an adversary, even organizations and individuals that don't typically deal with classified can potentially create significant vulnerabilities when it comes to the release of critical information. The best thing to do is keep OPSEC in mind while at work and home, maintain situational awareness and keep critical information close. Share only with those who need to know and where it is safe from prying ears.

It's a good practice that will help keep you, your family, and your organization safe. 

History stopped



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Colleen McGee

One of the last C-141 Starlifters, a flying piece of Air Force history made a

recent stop here on its second to last mission before heading to the flight museum

at Robbins AFB, Georgia.

This C-141 is known as the *Hanoi Taxi* for the role it played bringing home POWs from Vietnam.

Inside, each prisoner signed an interior panel, photos of the POWs and plaques honoring the aircrew are displayed.

Schoolhouse:

continued from back page

to computer systems will be installed and ready to use on the first day of occupancy.

More equipment is scheduled to be added after the December opening date.

An additional, full-motion, high-fidelity simulator and the Wing's simulator in building 910, will also be located in the Ground Training building.

While the buildings begin to stand up, the way the FTU will operate is also taking shape.

"It will be a 'Total Force' effort," said Lt. Col. Frederick McMahon, selected FTU commander.

The new FTU will be an Air Force Reserve Command mission and will employ Air Reserve Technicians, Guardsmen and reservists on Active Guard and Reserve tours of up to four years, traditional reservists, civilians and active duty personnel to provide the required training and support.

Some of the staff is in place. The units belonging to the FTU are scheduled to become official squadrons in July.

"Two new squadrons will stand up in July 06," said Lt. Col. McMahon. "A Flying Training Squadron and a Student Training Squadron will be added under the Operations Group."

"Although we'll maintain the same number of aircraft, we expect more maintenance needs based on added wear and tear associated with the demands of the increased flight training requirements," said Lt. Col. Michael Rischar, Deputy MXG commander.

Maintenance will be a huge part of the FTU success and will happen at a faster tempo. The 433rd Maintenance Group is also preparing for this new mission. According to Senior Master Sgt. Mary Lopez, Maintenance Operations Squadron logistics plans specialist, the number of maintainers assigned to the 433rd is slated to grow by about 17-percent. When



U. S. Air Force Courtesy Photo

Exterior framing and some outer walls are in place on the new C-5 Formal Training Unit. Classes will begin here in September, completing the school's relocation from Altus AFB., Okla.

fully staffed, the 433rd MXG will have the personnel and expertise to generate aircraft for both student training and to continue to support real-world missions.

"Taking on the added responsibility will be a challenge to the MXG, but it's an opportunity we look forward to and welcome whole-heartedly," said Colonel Rischar.

Staffing the FTU is a large task and the hiring campaign continues. Staffing is projected to be at

full strength by April 2007. Recruiting efforts are in full swing for highly-qualified, motivated and experienced people to fill new positions.

Anyone wishing to apply can call Judy Vogel, civilian personnel liaison, at 210-925-7210.

Editor's note: This is the first of three articles highlighting the FTU as it nears completion. Watch future issues of the Alamo Wing as the project nears completion and the first students begin to arrive. 🏠

Remember the Alamo Wing

On April 1, 1958, the Air Reserve Technician program officially began here at the Alamo Wing.

"Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo daVinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein."

-- H. Jackson Brown, Jr

Understanding the laws covered in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act just got easier.

New, clearer rules for civilian employers

By Elsa Martinez

Wing Public Affairs

You're ready to return to work after your recent activation --- but is your job ready for you?

A big problem for Reserve force troops was the murky status of health insurance and retirement benefits while in military status.

But now, new language in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, recently authored by the Department of Labor, gives more precise guidelines for maintaining citizen-troops' health and pension benefits while in uniform.

An employer must be pro-actively supportive by learning and following USERRA's requirements. "Many employers simply need to be educated about the changes," according to Larry Hobbs, a private Human Resources management consultant, and an ombudsman for Area 4 (San Antonio Region) Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"Change came because both issues kept coming up, and USERRA, as it stood, didn't address specifics," said Hobbs. "It wasn't until DOL provided further clarification that they got down to specifics on the issues of insurance and retirement benefits."

Basically, the new rules say that the citizen-troop's retirement and health benefits must be treated as though the soldier was still on the job. "This

means that pension benefits continue to accrue, and the level of the employer's contribution doesn't drop to the level of the military salary," said Hobbs.

For employer-sponsored contributory retirement plans, such as a 401(k), the rules grant the returning employee time to make up for lost contributions that would have been made during the period of military service --- the greater of three times the period of military service, or five years.

For non-contributory plans, USERRA requires employers to make retroactive contributions to defined-benefit pension plans, which are formula-based benefits, not dependent on worker contributions.

The time deadline for those contributions is the later of 90 days after a troop's return to work, or the date when the contributions would have been due for the period missed because of military service. The 90-day deadline supersedes the previous 30-day deadline, making the new rule more employer-friendly.

"Many situations related to health benefits come up," said Hobbs. "One incident concerned a citizen-troop who left for one year's duty, but not before he informed his employer, in writing, that his employer's health coverage be terminated during his absence. Even though he had provided written notice, once the worker returned and received his first few paychecks, he found no

pay," Hobbs said.

"The employer had paid the full health insurance premium in the worker's absence, and had taken back the employee's portion of the premium from the worker's first paychecks." As an ombudsman, Hobbs interceded, approaching the employer about the new USERRA provisions.

"I explained to the employer that the company must follow the service-member's election, and in this case, swallow the premium."

Under USERRA, the worker can choose to keep his civilian health coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, or the troop may rely on a military medical plan, where the family may also be covered. Under COBRA, the citizen-troop may keep the plan and pay 100-percent of the premium and have USERRA rights. The troop can go either way and do whichever is more favorable.

Hobbs stressed both citizen-troops and employers must be educated about these new USERRA provisions.

Past experience shows first-line and mid-level management rarely know particulars about USERRA and its related regulations.

Hobbs noted, "Employers, especially the top decision-makers in a company, have to know these rules so that they may be enforced. Once the top people have some knowledge, they have to train mid- and lower-level supervisors about these new changes. Those are the people who are dealing with citizen-troops on a day-to-day basis, and who especially need to know."

For more information about the changes and USERRA questions, check www.ESGR.org. 





Note Worthy Promotions



Ilee Ersch, MSS
Victor Abundis, OSS



David Benavides, 74th APS
Jesse Hinojosa, AMXS



Arthur Allen, MSS
Raymond Baker, MXS
Linda Castanon, MOS
Lawrence Holmes, 710th IOF
Mark Tree, 74th APS



Juan Arenas, MXS
Melissa Gamez, AMDS
Andre Greene, AMXS
Daniel Hayes, LRS
Jose Hernandez, Jr., 710th IOF
Leverne Hudson, SVF
Mark Kirkman, 68th AS
Frank Mora, 556th RHS
Martin Salas, AMXS



Irene Aguillon, AES
Troy Brock, CES
Zelmira Cantu, MDS
Anita Guerrero, MDS
Sarah Hale, ASTS
Jamie Pace, 556th RHS
Jessica Paz, MDS
Jayson Salazar, ASTS
Steven Solano, AES
David St. George, 74th APS
Peter Stevenson, MDS
Christopher Urista, AMDS
Shawna Warren, 68th AS



Juan Alaniz, MDS
Edelmira Alvarado, MDS
Joaquin Cruz, 556th RHS
Kateshia Greene, LRS
Rebecca Hogan, MDS
Natalie Howell, 556th RHS
Verina Legrand, MDS
Conrado Martinez, CES
Marisa Palmer, 74th APS
Eric Puckett, AMDS
Jessica Wheat, AMXS
Samuel Rios, 556th RHS
Felishia West, ASTS
Michael York, 26th APS



Dementria Henderson, LRS
Kimberly Oatley, MDS
Michael Wright, 556th RHS



Kellie Williams, AES
Michael Beverly, 68th AS
Ean Duke, AMXS
Jessica Langdon, AES
Stephen Merritt, CES
Jonathan Osorio, MSS



Col. John Fobian would like to congratulate the following Air Force Reserve Command and 4th Air Force Award winners. The Alamo Wing is definitely getting recognized for the heart and effort poured into the mission each and every day. Keep up the great work.

Air Force Reserve Command Level Awards

◆ Capt. Robert Acosta and Master Sgt. Gerardo Zuniga both of the 433rd Airlift Control Flight, were named the top officer and senior NCO, respectively.

◆ Tech. Sgt. Anita Garcia of the 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron was selected as a GEICO Military Service Awards Program winner.

◆ Master Sgt. Debra Norman, 433rd Airlift Wing Historian, received the

Historical Services Spirit of the Eagle Award, Category III for contribution of significance.

◆ In the 2005 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest, the Alamo Wing finished third overall of 25 entrants. The public affairs staff also earned two places in the competition.

In Category E, news article, second place went to Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons.

In Category F, feature article, third place went to Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee.

4th Air Force Level Awards

◆ Ms. Elitha A. Douglas, wife of Col. John Douglas, won the 4th Air Force, Joan Orr Award for Spouse of the Year.

◆ 2006 National Image, Inc. "Salute to Hispanics in the Military" Meritorious Service Award - Master Sgt. Dionicio Gutierrez from the 433rd Chapel Section.

Each winner will now advance to the Air Force Reserve Command level. Winners of the command-level awards

Tropical training:

continued from Page 1

or an active-duty unit would lead and reservists would play in an augmentation role. On this project, all the work is being done by Reservists on annual tour including the airlift of equipment and supplies. Flyers are performing currency training while flying the supplies too expensive or unavailable locally.

Sergeant Roper explained the project came up on the schedule near the end of the fiscal year and there were limited funds available. The call for bids from civilian contractors was made and the bids came in way over budget.

Sergeant Roper said the next step for SOUTHCOM was to put out the project to reserve units to see if they could help.

“When we put out the help wanted, we got all we could handle,” Sergeant Roper said.

In fact, the reply gave a \$600,000 savings in direct costs to SOUTHCOM.

There is labor augmentation on the project – that too is an Air Force Reserve function.

“Due to the large scale of this project and the limited time we will be on site, the 445th CES from Wright-Patterson, AFB was asked to support us in this mission,” wrote Senior Master Sgt. Sergio Medellin.

So far, the group from Ohio makes up 35-50 percent of the project manning on each rotation.

“Our last IGX (Inspector General Exercise) was with them (the 445th CES),” said Master Sgt. Jade Villareal, a heavy equipment supervisor who recently returned from Saint Lucia. “There were a lot of familiar faces and we meshed very well.”

The familiar faces of the Wright-Patterson reservists aren't the only friendly faces the Alamo Wing CES troops are meeting.

“It is truly a nice little clean island and these people are very supportive,”

said Sergeant Roper. “They are proud of what they have.”

The local population and tourists are very friendly to the Airmen working on a project that will help them keep their island clean and the crime low.

Sergeant Brock, who worked on the first rotation, credits the reception by the locals to the very basics of human relations.

“First impressions are important and I think we made a good impression,” said Sergeant Brock.

The good impression wasn't only on the local citizens but also on their officials.

“The police commissioner and his assistant, the airport manager and a facilities engineer all toured the project and there is a lot of positive feedback (about construction methods),” said Lt. Col. Matthews.

Lt. Col. Matthews said the local government representatives are now working to arrange to have their personnel observe the Prime BEEF construction. More formal hands-on training sessions for the Saint Lucians on construction techniques may happen before the July completion date.

For all involved parties this annual tour is a positive experience by broadening skills across the varied career fields under the CES squadron.

For example, firefighters, working on site as Emergency Medical Technicians, have been learning construction skills while assisting on the project, heavy equipment operators are learning about construction techniques and reservists are learning skills useful to their civilian employers.

“I learned a lot about concrete, and from the plumbers,” said Sergeant Brock

who also has experience to take back to his civilian job as an equipment mechanic in San Antonio.

His experience helped him see the equipment out in the field and helped him understand what the operators need.

“I can see the equipment working on the job, see how they use it,” said Sergeant Brock. “Like on a backhoe with its electronic controls. In the shop I'd think ‘what do they need that for’. Now I see how helpful it is.”

The civilian experience reservists bring to the Air Force mission also helps on the project and with the first impressions left on the local population.

“You have to be able to deal with people in that environment,” said Sergeant Villareal, about his civilian job as a corrections officer at the Dominguez State Jail.

Sergeant Villareal acknowledged that having people skills really helps in getting to know the local population and the customers for the project. 🏠

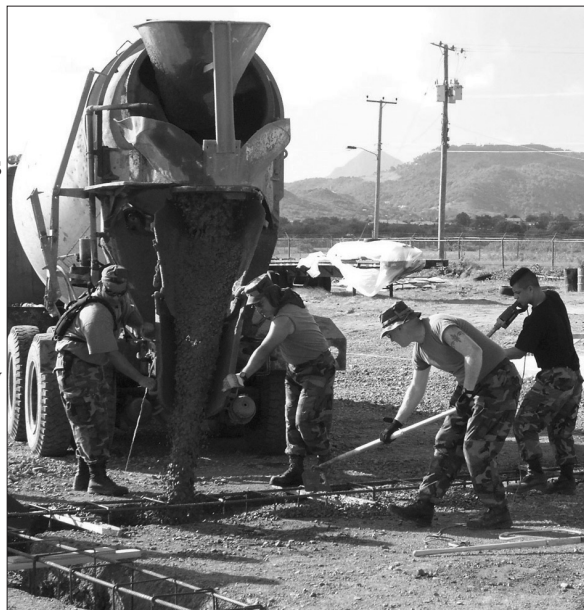
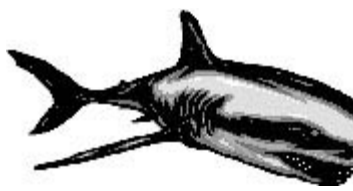


Photo by Senior Airman Jacob Arbizu, 433rd CES

From left to right are Tech. Sgt. Dennis Guerro, Master Sgt. David Esquivel, Airman First Class Conrad Martinez, from the 433rd CES and Staff Sgt. Michael Clare from the 445th CES. The construction team is pouring concrete into hand-built foundation frames in trenches.



News Bites...

GOODBYE YELLOW SHOT RECORDS

Reserve Airmen are no longer required to maintain their yellow shot records. All shot records will now be maintained on the Form 2766 unless otherwise requested by the Airman.

VACANCY AND PROMOTIONS CHANGE

The method of determining the number of early promotions for Air Force Reserve officers, known as position-vacancy promotions, is changing.

Starting with the February major promotion selection board, Air Force Reserve Command has linked position-vacancy promotion quotas to mandatory promotion board quotas.

To obtain the number of position-vacancy promotions, the command will take a percentage of its mandatory board quotas.

For lieutenant colonel, it will be 20-percent of the mandatory board quotas and for major, 30-percent.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123015806>

AF RELEASES RELIGIOUS GUIDELINES

A revised version of its religious guidelines has been issued by the Air Force. This is the latest step in a process started after a review at the U.S. Air Force Academy indicated a need

for additional guidance.

The first set of interim guidelines was issued in August. The newly revised version was written after getting diverse feedback and careful consideration of the U.S. Constitution, laws and military necessity.

LONGER TRAINING ADDS NEW SKILLS

Civilians wanting to be Airmen are going to have to rough it for an additional two and a half weeks at basic military training. The additional weeks give more time for Airmen to be trained on warfighting skills such as the use of small arms and emergency medical techniques.

Starting next year, students at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., home to Air University and the Senior NCO Academy, are going to see a more robust education that includes language classes.

It will be mandatory to take one of four languages; Arabic, French, Spanish or Chinese. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123016059>

AF ELIMINATES OFFICER DISTINCTIONS

The distinction between Air Force active-duty regular and Reserve officers will be eliminated by May 1.

Previously, an officer who earned a Reserve commission served in sort of probationary period until

promoted to major, when the officer could become a regular officer.

All officers who entered active duty after May 1, 2005, were commissioned as regular officers. All other active-duty officers will automatically be transferred to regular status by May 1, provided they meet appointment requirements. The change will not affect the active-duty service commitment nor is a new oath of office required.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123015935>

MOST RESERVISTS EARN MORE ON DUTY

Despite general perceptions that guardsmen and reservists lose income when called to active duty, most actually earn more in uniform than as civilians, according to a new Rand Corp. study. The Department of

Defense commissioned the study to determine the financial effect of mobilization and deployment on reserve-component members. The nonprofit research organization's study shows that 72-percent of the more than 100,000 troops surveyed saw their earnings jump 25-percent when called to active duty. Their average pay hike amounted to about \$10,000 a year. However, Rand researchers also found that 28-percent

of reservists studied lost pay after being called to active duty. About one-fifth of the survey group lost 10 or more percent of their normal income. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123015793>

SEMINARS FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS

Air Force Reserve Command's Professional Development Center is taking applications for a series of junior officer leadership development seminars this summer in the United States and Germany.

The JOLDS seminars train company grade officers in leadership, teambuilding, cultural diversity, mobilization issues and military officership.

Second lieutenants through captains have until May 26 to enroll in a JOLDS seminar at Peterson AFB, Colo., June 8-11. Enrollment will start later for a seminar at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., Sept. 14-17.

The International JOLDS will run from July 29 to Aug. 5 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Deadline to sign up via e-mail is May 10.

More information and course requirements are available on the AFRC internal Web site by clicking on the headquarters directorate icon and going to A1 Manpower and Personnel.

Who's Who in the... **Alamo Wing**



Photo by Senior Airman Jesse Hernandez

Ms. Tish Gonzales, Family Support Director for the 433rd Airlift Wing, unloads care packages destined for deploying wing members. The care packages were an Eagle Scout project and were donated just in time for the first wing members headed out on their Air Expeditionary Forces rotation.



By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Reserve medical technicians are well aware that battlefield trauma, such as this simulated improvised explosive device wound, can be more severe than anything they've dealt with at home. The only way to prepare is to practice. Senior Airman Matthew Masek, from the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, is getting practical training during a recent mass casualty exercise. Maj. Mary McCann, a nurse with the same squadron, shares her skills while the two undergo evaluation.



By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons

Airman 1st Class Valente Carreon, 433rd Services Squadron, shows his co-workers the Babington Multi-fuel Burner (PMB) during a recent field training exercise. The PMB is the newest cooking element available to Services and replaces the previous single burner model. The PMB is part of the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen. A team of eight can erect the SPEK and feed 550 troops in a few hours.

Formal Training Unit buildings take shape

By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons
Wing Public Affairs

Nine months after ground breaking, the construction for the C-5 Formal Training Unit is beginning to look like a schoolhouse. And although the buildings won't quite be ready, operators and maintainers continue to prepare for the official start of flight training in October.

The FTU construction is over 1/3 complete. The 69,000 square-foot Ground Training Unit building now stands three stories high. The Flight Training building now has a roof and the foundations for the Training Load Assembly Facility and the addition to building 826 are being formed.

Until the new facilities are finished in December, classes will borrow space throughout the wing. But the changeover is planned to happen instantly once the new buildings are finished.

The FTU received some of its equipment already. On moving day, the FTU will be completely operational. All the equipment, from phones

(See **Schoolhouse**, 6)



U.S. Air Force Photo

The C-5 Formal Training Unit is taking shape both inside and out. As the building rises, the programs and procedures are also being built. Preliminary staff are in place and applications for various positions are being accepted.

UTA SCHEDULE

April

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

May

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

June

A UTA June 3-4
B UTA June 24-25

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