

# ALAMO WING

Volume 55, Number 7, 2006

U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

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

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## Alamo Wing contributes to big relief plan

By Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee

*Wing Public Affairs*

Everyone along the Gulf Coast is thinking more about hurricane season after Katrina and weather service warnings about a more severe season possible this year.

The news is full of flashback images from the devastation. News coverage ranges from preparedness articles in the newspapers to television talk show segments about weather anxiety. All are based on experience.

Those in a position to respond are no different. A preemptive response plan, using the experience of those in the lead of the last response is in the works. The goal of U.S. Northern Command, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the states at risk, is to identify all civilian and government capabilities and the best way to get them into play quickly and effectively. Even though the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing led the aeromedical response last year, they wouldn't automatically do it when the next one hits.

"We're not sourcing, we are just stating the mission's probable requirements," said Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa, readiness manager for the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "It may be a State National Guard mission."

No matter who gets the mission, mission planning still needs facts.

Chief Christa was part of a team that spent some time along the Gulf Coast performing site surveys at various airfields evaluating all the parameters that could affect any future evacuation effort.

The state has the lead and the Department of Defense will respond if assistance is requested by the state.

One focus of the group was to provide civilian partners a realistic view of the timeframe needed to place

DOD aeromedical evacuation support structure in place. "Air Force AE planning is based on assumptions and it can be fluid," said Chief Christa. "The number one assumption is that this is a priority for the Department of Defense once federal support is requested,".

The next assumption is that the best results are achieved when patient evacuation is accomplished before the storm.

*See Fluid plan, Page 6*



Courtesy Photo

**Pre-storm evacuations from the regional airport at Beaumont, Texas before hurricane Rita arrived, were more orderly and more organized than the post storm relief operations from New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. Still, there were lessons learned from each operation.**

## 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.

# Personnel accountability counts

By Brig. Gen. John Fobian

Wing Commander



During a national emergency or natural disaster, knowing the status of our people is top priority. Accountability of our personnel, whether they are Air Reserve Technicians,

Traditional Reservists, Active Guard and Reserve or civilian employees, is critical to readiness and resource management.

Accountability provides commanders at all levels a clear picture of their ability to provide rescue and recovery capability in response to the post-disaster environment. It's important that accountability for Reserve personnel and their families be monitored prior to, during and following catastrophic events, like natural disasters or terrorist attacks.

Lessons learned in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita emphasized the need to change accountability procedures. As a command, there were problems with accounting for Air Force Reserve Command members assigned to, or living in, disaster areas. At one point, there were

292 unaccounted for Reservists across the command.

It's important that every member of the Alamo Wing keeps contact information up-to-date and knows pertinent contact numbers at the unit. Everyone must ensure their emergency data and data on family members is up-to-date including, home address, e-mail address and all phone numbers, home, work and cell. The primary way to accomplish this task is through the Virtual MPF.

Updates are simple and only take a few minutes, but pay great dividends during a crisis.

Be aware of how to contact your leadership, keep them informed of your whereabouts and account for your family members during an emergency.

- Initial contact should be with your assigned Unit Control Center before you leave your home or once you get to your evacuation location.

- If unable to contact the UCC, contact your supervisor.

- If unable to contact your unit, contact the 433<sup>rd</sup> Command Post at (210) 925-4330 or DSN 945-4330.

- If the previous attempts are unsuccessful,

See *Be counted* on Page 3

## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Lyle Von Seggern,  
Alamo Wing Chaplain

*"In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death.*

*He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign.*

*But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem."*

2 Chronicles 32: 24-25

I praise and thank our Lord for you and your service to Him and our Nation. All of you, civilian and military, who sacrifice so much in "Alamo Country", and around the globe, deserve a "Thank You" as big as Texas!

I truly believe it's the will of God to

acknowledge the type of noble work you do. May the entire world, a world that receives the benefit of your labor, respond with gratitude because if they don't, I believe it hurts God.

In turn, let us continue to honor the Lord as we return to our homes and say thank you to our families. Let's not forget all the kindness they and our friends show us. What a difference two words can make for those who give so much to us. So often they give and give with such little recognition.

Please take time to also say "thank You" to the Lord! He gives and gives with such little recognition too!

## Be counted: *continued from Page 2*

cessful, contact the 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force Crisis Action Team at (951)-655-3572 or DSN 447-3572.

- If you can't reach the above, use the National Disaster Registry at: [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw) or by calling 1-800-435-9941.

### Air Force leaders send Independence Day message

WASHINGTON -- The following is an Independence Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley.

"Happy Birthday, America! For 230 years, this nation and its people have represented freedom and democracy. We earned that reputation through courageous acts of patriotism by our founding fathers and through bravery on battlefields across the world. Today we mark not a resounding victory in a great battle, but instead the day when we stood up as a free and independent nation and told the world we would no longer live under tyrannical rule.


"This year, as you gather to celebrate the founding of our great nation, pause a moment to remember our heroes currently serving away from home, fighting to preserve the very same freedoms the patriots before us secured. Their efforts are helping us soar to a future bounded by limitless horizons.

"You, the men and women of America's Air Force, reflect the generations of patriots who, through their actions, displayed the values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Thank you for your unyielding commitment, and have a happy and safe 4th of July!"

Commanders, First Sergeants and supervisors are the front line when it comes to explaining the critical actions necessary and to ensuring your people understand that this is a 365-day, 24/7 responsibility.

Maintain a realistic, actionable

evacuation plan in anticipation of a natural disaster or national crisis.

The key to personnel accountability during crisis is being prepared to track our military members, the families and Department of Defense civilians during any crisis. 

## Living history tells his story

By Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee and Staff Sgt. Bethaney Trapp

*Wing Public Affairs*

**D**uring the June A Unit Training Assembly, members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing got the chance to get face-to-face with a living piece of military history.

Lt. Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, one of the famous Doolittle Raiders, made a stop at the annual Reserve Officer's Association luncheon here.

Colonel Cole was the co-pilot to then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle in the lead bomber. He and 79 other members of the Doolittle Raiders made the first successful bombing run over Japan four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Although they completed the mission successfully, the aircraft they were flying didn't have the fuel to land at the intended landing site in China. In fact, they were afraid they might not make land at all.

"The water changed from a blue-green to a brown to just plain muddy," said Col. Cole. "We knew we were getting close to land. When the fuel light began to flicker, Col. Doolittle gave us the order to bail out."

Colonel Cole and the rest of the Doolittle Raiders were ready to ask for help in Chinese when they landed. Well, maybe not completely ready.

"They taught us how to say 'I am an American,' but when we landed it was the wrong dialect," said Col. Cole.

In spite of the language barrier, Colonel Cole made it back to base and continued flying cargo aircraft in

China and India.


Not only did Colonel Cole get to tell his story about his past service, his visit had an impact on Alamo Wing members serving today.

"It's just inspiring," said Maj. Ernest Vasquez, from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Group. "You can read history but you can never see it live in person from a person who experienced it."

"Pretty cool to know a person who was apart of our nation's history," said Senior Master Sgt. Carol Allen, NCOIC of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Services Flight. "It makes you that much more proud to be serving. People like that set the foundation and the history. It's a good feeling."

"I think it's truly an honor to listen to someone speak who has such a historical relevance to the country we are today," said Maj. Steven Woods, executive officer for the 433<sup>rd</sup> AW. While the Alamo Wing got to hear from someone who flew before there was an Air Force, the 92-year-old, retired war hero from Comfort, Texas had good things to say about the direction Airmen of today are headed.

"I think that the young military today have to be more professional as far as the equipment and the education," said Colonel Cole. "It makes the job easier and you can evaluate the results easier. All in all the whole force is more professional."

Colonel Cole knows about today's young airmen through more than visits to various bases. His grandson, Nate Chal, is a member of the most recent graduating class at the Air Force Academy. 

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

# Get Involved

## Blood donors wanted

The Lackland Blood Donor Center on Kenly Avenue, a block south of Wilford Hall, accepts donations from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.

Blood drives are also scheduled throughout the base. To find the one closest to you, call 292-8100.

July 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m, a drive is scheduled for Bldg. 2087 on Security Hill. Call 977-2879 for more infor-

## FREE FEDERAL HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

Federal Handbooks recently announced the launch of its new Web site and the release of its latest seven free handbooks written specifically for federal employees. Visit [www.federalhandbooks.com](http://www.federalhandbooks.com) to order your free copy.

## Volunteers needed at Wilford Hall

The Volunteer Services Office at Wilford Hall Medical Center is recruiting volunteers for four or more hours each week. Volunteer opportunities include: main information desk, patient escort transportation service and more.

For more information call 292-6591 or 292-6592. Or, visit WHMC, Volunteer Services Office in Room 1C33 weekdays.

## NCOA National Job Fair at Live Oak Civic Center

The Non Commissioned Officers Association will host a National Job Fair on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at the Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd, Live Oak, TX from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. This event is free and open to the public. Dress appropriately, bring plenty of resumes and friends and be prepared to meet with local and national recruiters. Over 50 companies will be in attendance hiring for all industries! For more information call Tony White at 1-800-662-2620, ext 222 or visit [www.militaryjobworld.com](http://www.militaryjobworld.com).

## The results are in on the ...

## Air Force Assistance Fund

The final totals are in for the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign 2006, and they are impressive. May 21 marked the end of the AFAF fund drive. The original goal was to collect at least one dollar for every member of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, roughly \$3100. We achieved this goal, and then some, by nearly 170 percent with over \$5080.00!

None of this was possible without the relentless efforts of the squadron and group representatives and wing leadership. Reinforcement by wing leadership, coupled with perseverance and diligence of project coordinators, made for an outstanding event. During resourceful planning and development of donation drives, AFAF representatives explained benefits the fund represents.

Top contributors were the members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Group with over \$2,100.00 in contributions. They will display the new Top Contributor award until the next AFAF campaign.

*(Information provided by Ms. Leticia Gonzales, Family Support Officer)*

## Remember the Alamo Wing

*The 74<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron  
celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary on June 29<sup>th</sup>*

“If you reveal your secrets to the wind  
you should not blame the wind for  
revealing them to the trees.”

————— *Kahlil Gibran*  
*Artist & Poet (1883-1931)*

# New personnel system one step closer

By Wayne Bryant

— 37<sup>th</sup> Training Wing Public Affairs

Implementation of the National Security Personnel System at Lackland took a step closer this month with the start of technical training for civilian supervisors and managers.

The course, which started in June, lasts two full days, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and encompasses the basics of NSPS, the human relations processes that will change under the new program and the structure of the performance management portion of the system.

“This training is essential for all managers and supervisors of civil-

ian employees,” said Gwen Edwards, chief of Lackland’s NSPS Implementation Office. “There are many changes involved in this new personnel system that everyone – supervisors and employees – will need to know.”


Classes were set for June 12-13, 14-15, 19-20, 21-22, 26-27 and 28-29. The course will also be offered in the coming months, but no schedule has been set at this time.

Supervisors and managers can sign up for the course on-line at: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=OO-DP-AE-04>.

Additionally, there are several pre-requisites for the course including

completion of the “NSPS 101” course, available on-line at the following Web site: <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps>.

Attendees are also asked to bring a copy of their unit’s mission statement and goals, as well as a position description or core document of the unit’s most predominant occupational series.

“Our goal is to have Lackland supervisors trained and ready when NSPS becomes a reality at Lackland,” Ms. Edwards added. “The implementation process has had some challenges along the way, but we are confident when the decision is made for the base to convert, we will be ready.” 

## AFRC patch becomes mandatory Oct. 1

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force Reserve Command is in the process of making the wear of the AFRC patch mandatory on battle dress uniforms and flight suits for unit reservists and headquarters staffers.

These people, who include those assigned to the AFRC headquarters and the Air Reserve Personnel Center, can start wearing the patch now. Oct. 1 is the mandatory wear date.

The new patch policy does not apply to mobilization assistants, individual mobilization augmentees and full-time members of the Active Guard and Reserve assigned outside the command.

“Our Air Force reservists are proud to be Airmen in our Air Force today. As we try our best to be an ‘Unrivaled Wingman,’ we are proud of our heritage as Citizen Airmen. Our people want to be recognized as reservists,” said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander.

“As an Air Force major command, we wear our command patch so people know who we are,” the general said. “We have been a major command for

over nine years. Our folks deserve to be recognized for the great work they do for our Air Force and our nation. We are ‘One Air Force, Same Fight... an Unrivaled Wingman.’”

The AFRC patch will go on the right breast pocket. Unit commanders may approve the wear of one sewn-on, subdued patch on the left breast pocket, either a numbered air force, wing or squadron organizational patch. That patch will be centered between the left and right edges and the bottom of the flap and the bottom of the pocket.

People assigned to the

area of responsibility will follow the guidance prescribed by that combatant command.

AFRC officials approved the purchase of the patches last year, and most units have already received funding to buy them. (AFRC News Service)



# Fluid plan: *Continued from Front Page*

“A Beaumont not a New Orleans,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rob Rodriguez, sighting the successful pre-emptive evacuation of Beaumont, Texas, two weeks after Hurricane Katrina and hours before Hurricane Rita swept into town. Sergeant Rodriguez knows about getting off the ground in a hurry; he is the Unit Deployment Manager.

The plan isn't to evacuate just anyone. It focuses on those who cannot evacuate themselves such as hospital and nursing home patients. Last year's experience helped bring the plan together quickly. The initial proposal was assembled in four days and details are added during daily reviews.

Some key recommendations address the following areas:

- ◆ Alternate ways to communicate
- ◆ Patient and medical record tracking
- ◆ Coordination with established civilian and DOD agencies

“We have enough knowledge now on the Louisiana coast,” said Chief Christa, “The capabilities are known, it's a matter of plugging them in.”

But even the best plan on paper won't work if there isn't some communication between agencies before an emergency happens.

It's important to know what capabilities, and what level of support may be needed and to know it as early as possible.

One determining factor in the level of support is how many are in nursing homes, hospice and Home Health Care patients who might need evacuation

“Once Aeromedical Evacuation gets that number we can figure out how long it would take to evacuate and how long we need to be in place before the storm hits,” said Chief Christa.

Getting the number is the easy part, setting patient priority can be the difficulty if not determined in advance. Chief Christa and Sergeant Rodriguez

explained there are operational differences between military and civilian medical organizations that involve the way treatment is determined.

“There are differences in how the civilian medical community and the DOD medical community prioritize patient movement,” said Chief Christa. “Civilians move the sickest first. For the military it is the opposite.”

The two pointed out resources make patient triage differ for each. For military medical operating in a wartime environment, there are forward operating hospitals capable of advanced care. In a disaster relief operation, hospitals are being emptied and closed for an undetermined amount of time. There may not be care available after a hurricane.

“We learned from the last round of evacuations out of New Orleans, that the civilian model of triage doesn't take into consideration those on dialysis requiring regular treatments,” said Chief Christa. “By the time those evaluated as needing immediate treatment were moved, we found at the end of the line there were dialysis patients DOD would have moved earlier.”

A hybrid triage plan would take those patients into consideration and get them moved before their condition deteriorates, according to the chief.

Although the final version of the evacuation plan is not complete, the 433<sup>rd</sup> AES does have a few new tools ready.

“One chink in our armor was equipment,” said Chief Christa. “Our equipment is streamlined, (to meet our wartime mission) there are no old cancer patients in Baghdad.”

The chief was referring to the fact that most military patients are between the ages of 18-40 and fairly healthy prior to being wounded or getting ill. The general population they saw in New Orleans included babies, long-term illnesses and geriatric patients.

Discussions are taking place regarding how to support this unique homeland mission and the special needs of its evacuees.


“We'd never faced anything like this before – when we go to war, we know what to expect, but walking into that airport (last year) ...” said Sergeant Rodriguez.

Those past surprises are now expectations, or at the very least, planning assumptions. In addition to pre-emptive planning, DOD partners, according to U.S. Northern Command officials, have made it clear they are available if requested to provide support to civilian authorities. There are expectations of the civilian community this year to have learned lessons from last year's experience also

And though the all-encompassing, draft of the new homeland disaster response plan is still in the proposal stages, there is a baseline of information available should another hurricane hit domestic soil before the plan is complete.

Not only is there more experience available to draw from, but the 433<sup>rd</sup> AES has some new equipment packages ready should they have to assist in humanitarian relief efforts during the current hurricane season.

“The new equipment package for humanitarian relief includes things like diapers, bottles and geriatric care items,” said Sergeant Rodriguez. “The equipment is there.”

The 433<sup>rd</sup> was a key player in last year's response and stands ready to support again this year. With the active involvement of the unit in regional hurricane preparation plans and individual experience from 2005, the unit and the DOD are ready if needed. Not only are they more prepared to handle hurricane response, but the planning and experience readily transfers to other types of emergencies on U.S. soil. 

# Reserve Airman strong link in communication chain

*This article is the second in a series covering our personnel on Air Expeditionary Force deployments.*

**By Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee**

*Wing Public Affairs*

**C**ommunication is the key to successful operations. In order to have good communication, the technology must be in place and maintained. Providing that vital link for the Army at Qayyarah (Kee-yara), Iraq, or Q-West, comes down to less than 30 Airmen. One of those is a member of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Communications Flight.

Senior Airman Charles Austin, in fact, is the sole maintainer for ground radio equipment at Q-West and looks forward to the opportunity to put his skills to the test during deployment.

"I look forward to being in a solo position because you have to solve the problems yourself," said Airman Austin. "Here there is always someone to lean on, someone to ask. There, it's all up to me."

Airman Austin doesn't worry much about being able to get the job done.

"You can only do what you can do," said Airman Austin. "It's not simple but...I understand the parameters of what I can and can't do (with the equipment)."

Although the specific radio diagnostic equipment he'll work with at Q-West is not what he normally works on here at Lackland, he isn't worried.

"The theory is just the same (no matter the radio equipment)," said Airman Austin.

Austin also is no stranger to deployments. He's been in Iraq before.

"I've been over there, same country different place," he said.

In fact, he's anticipating the austere conditions of a forward operating base.

"I'm looking forward to a more simple existence and concentrating on the gym and work," said Airman Austin.

## After Arrival

Getting to Q-West wasn't easy. Airman Austin was happy to finally arrive.

"My first thought when I stepped off the plane was, thank God I am finally here," said Airman Austin. "Iraq was the seventh country I visited in 6 days."

Once there, the base wasn't as austere as some might imagine.

"The DFAC (Dining Facility) is run by KBR (Keller Brown & Root, a contractor) and the food is better than you can get at any Dining Facility on Lackland, no offense intended," said Airman Austin.

With offerings like steak, Mongolian Grill night and other international offerings, the DFACs offer a wide variety of meals.

There are also a few tastes from home at Q-West.

"They have a green bean (espresso coffee stand) and a Subway," said Airman Austin.

After getting to his duty location and scoping out off-duty offerings, Airman Austin found out more about his job responsibilities. His opportunities were wider than he first thought.

"I am glad to be in Q-West because I have an opportunity to be involved in every aspect of the mission," said Airman Austin. "At some of the larger bases you are a small cog in a very large wheel. Every cog is important, but you don't always get the personal satisfaction of seeing how you directly

impact the mission."

Airman Austin maintains a Land Mobile Radio network for ground coordination and works with the Army's communications unit for internet and secure internet communications and phone capabilities. He also helps with incoming mission coordination.

"My unit is a logistics support unit," said Airman Austin. "We plan, organize, download and upload all passengers and supplies that are airlifted into Q-west. I provide communications between our command and control and incoming aircraft to coordinate upload and download, decreasing the aircraft's time on the ground."

Being one of few Airmen surrounded by about 5,000 Army personnel gives Airman Austin a person-to-person view of exactly who he is supporting. But there are some cultural and mission related differences between the Army and the Air Force that call for extra empathy.

"Soldiers normally stay for a year and spend a lot of their time running convoys," said Airman Austin.

"So far, all my experiences with the Army have gone well," said Airman Austin. "The more airlift we supply the shorter their convoys are and the safer and quicker they get home." 🏠



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Collen McGee

**Senior Airman Charles Austin, a 433<sup>rd</sup> Communications Flight radio maintainer, knows the equipment he'll see is deferent from the equipment at Lackland, but, the basic technology remains the same.**

# Note Worthy

## PROMOTIONS



Reuben Knappe, MXS  
Edith Gonzalez, MDS  
Geoffery Dyer, 68<sup>th</sup> AS



Bobby Walls, CES  
Robert Rodriguez, AES  
Robert Reyes, 68<sup>th</sup> AS  
Edward Ramirez, OSS  
Rick Moreno, 68<sup>th</sup> AS  
Troy Meridith, OSS  
Ernest Lopez, AMDS  
John Henshaw, TRS  
Michael Droemer, OSS



Jesse Garcia, OSS  
Patrick McMahon, OSS  
Rudy Avila, MOs  
Kevin Foerster, 68<sup>th</sup> AS  
Theodore Grabowski, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Roger Arevalo, ASTS  
Peter Wood, MXG  
Lyle Boussard, AES

Christina Gotay, AES  
Richard Burkhardt, MXS  
Martin Diaz, MXS  
Gary Harris, MXS  
Juan Buitron, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Ronald Evola, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS



Richard Garcia, OSS  
Lesheldon Belyeu, ASTS  
Shay Arellano, MDS  
Samantha Deslatte, MSS  
Chandra Hunsucker, SVF  
Michael Weeks, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
Michael Hernandez, CES  
Mark Johnson, CES  
Darrien Bourget, CES  
Alma Ramirez, MXS  
Edward Wells, MXS  
Victor Estrada, AES  
Jose Castro, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS



Michael Arispe, ASTS  
Tonja Brenner, ASTS  
Tanya Leeheneke, ASTS  
Tammy Reedy, ASTS  
Steven Vea, ASTS  
James Hilton, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
Ainseley Linton, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
Ian Chamberlain, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Alfredo Cervantes, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Matthew Oster, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
David Rendon, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
Marco Lozano, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
David Salazar, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS



Monica Jasso, SFS  
Bruno Lozano, SFS  
Tiffany Lay, MDS  
Travis Wood, MDS  
Bertha Torres, MOF  
Michael Ochoa, MOF  
Valente Carreon, SVF  
Mikela Kleinhans, AMXS  
Ionatana Sipili, 68<sup>th</sup> AS  
Gregorio Calderon, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Ruben Gonozalez, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Mark Martinez, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Justin Bertrand, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Valerie Parker, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Brett Amick, MXS  
Aaron Burton, MXS  
Trevor Pierson, MXS  
Charles Stokes, MXS  
Cody Warner, MXS  
David Bryant, CES  
Roberto Flores, CES  
Naisha Hobbie, CES  
Cody Bailey, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
Roel Perez, 26<sup>th</sup> APS



Alberto Cisneros, MXS  
Michael Ricci, MXS  
Morgan Campbell, AES  
Maria Berzoza, MDS  
Joshua Treadwell, AMXS  
Joenath Chincarini, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Lena Sue Ray, AMXS  
Meghan Burr-Payne, CES

## Wing Quarterly Awards

Brig. Gen. John Fobian, 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Commander, would like to congratulate the following Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer and senior NCO award winners for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, fiscal year 2006.

The competition was keen and all are commended for a job well done.

The winners in their respective category are:

**Airman Category:**  
Senior Airman Jessica Wheat, AMXS

**NCO Category:**  
Tech. Sgt. Gasper F. SiFuentes, II, TRS

**Senior NCO Category:**  
Master Sgt. Judith A. Gutierrez, MDS

## Two Alamo Wing Groups get new commanders

Photo by Maj. Elena Millford



### Medical Group

**Right: Col. John Douglas hands command of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Group over to Col. Ritchard Shelton.**

**Left: Col. Geoffery Morrison relinquishes command of the Medical Group to Col. Raul Aguilar who stepped up from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron after handing the squadron's reins to Col. Josef Schmid.**

### Maintenance Group



Photo by Staff Sergeant Bethaney Traup



# VA data theft could endanger Vet's identity

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- All active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen can check the Spotlight area on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site to see if their personal data was compromised in the Veterans Administration data theft.

This is an additional effort on behalf of the Air Force to ensure affected Airmen are aware their information was compromised.

For the latest information on this issue and for more information on how to protect against identity theft, visit the veteran information

area of First Gov, the U.S. Government's official Web portal. (*Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs*)

The spotlight web site is <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/checker/>, and may only be accessed from a government computer.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1- How can I tell if my information was compromised?

At this point there is no evidence any missing data was used illegally. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs asks all veterans to be vigilant and monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions. If you notice suspicious activity, report it to the financial institution and contact the Federal Trade Commission for further guidance.

2- When was the data stolen?

The information was stolen from a VA employee's home during May, 2006.

If the data was misused or otherwise used to commit fraud or identity theft crimes, it is likely veterans may notice suspicious activity during May.

3- What can I do to prevent credit card fraud or identity theft?

The VA strongly recommends veterans closely monitor financial statements and visit the VA special website on this subject, [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov), or call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

Dear Veteran:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently learned that an employee took home electronic data from the VA, which he was not authorized to do and was in violation of established policies. The employee's home was burglarized and this data was stolen. The data contained identifying information including names, social security numbers, and dates of birth for up to 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, as well as some disability ratings. As a result of this incident, information identifiable with you was potentially exposed to others. It is important to note that the affected data did not include any of VA's electronic health records or any financial information.

Appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the VA Inspector General's office, have launched full-scale investigations into this matter. Authorities believe it is unlikely the perpetrators targeted the items because of any knowledge of the data contents.

Out of an abundance of caution, however, VA is taking all possible steps to protect and inform our veterans. While you do not need to take any action unless you are aware of suspicious activity regarding your personal information, there are many steps you may take to protect against possible identity theft and we wanted you to be aware of these. Specific information is included in the enclosed question and answer sheet. For additional information, the VA has teamed up with the Federal Trade Commission and has a Web site ([www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)) with information on this matter or you may call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636). The call center will operate from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (EDT), Monday-Saturday, as long as it is needed.

Beware of any phone calls, e-mails, and other communications from individuals claiming to be from VA or other official sources, asking for your personal information or verification of it. This is often referred to as information solicitation or "phishing." VA, other government agencies, and other legitimate organizations will not contact you to ask for or to confirm your personal information. If you receive such communications, they should be reported to VA at 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

We apologize for any inconvenience or concern this situation may cause, but we at VA believe it is important for you to be fully informed of any potential risk resulting from this incident. Again, we want to reassure you we have no evidence that your protected data has been misused. We will keep you apprised of any further developments. The men and women of the VA take our obligation to honor and serve America's veterans very seriously and we are committed to ensuring that this never happens again.

In accordance with current policy, the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to forward this letter because we do not have current addresses for all affected individuals. The IRS has not disclosed your address or any other tax information to us.

Sincerely yours,

R. James Nicholson

Enclosure



# News Bites...

## **RECOGNIZING RESERVE CHILDREN**

Our Military Kids is a new nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure the children of deployed and severely injured Guard and Reserve personnel can afford to participate in activities such as youth sports, fine arts and tutoring programs. When submitting an application, proof is required that the child's parent is either activated Guard or Reserve. Documentation also must be provided validating the amount of the grant request. For an application and program details, visit their website at [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

## **AF LAUNCHES SELF-SERVICE**

The Air Force will launch two self-service modules that will allow civilians to access their personnel information beginning June 1. My Biz will provide civilian employees access and the ability to update information about themselves. My Workplace will provide military and civilian managers access to information about their staff.

For more information about My Biz and My Workplace contact your local civilian personnel flight or visit [ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CAREER**

Air Force officials began implementing the international affairs career field, or IACF, this spring. Through this career field, Air Force civilians are given additional opportunities to develop skills and experiences equal to their military counterparts.

Representatives from the IACF development team will tour bases this year to give an IACF information briefing. For more information about IACF visit the Web site at <http://www.iaprograms.com>.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## **AIR FORCE PLANS GREENER FUTURE**

Active Air Force bases are not exempt from environmental regulations and must remain regulator-compliant.

Though restoration and remediation actions are expensive, they must be completed to protect human health and the environment and comply with environmental laws.

Maintaining environmental compliance means the Air Force must continue to be smart in the way it manages potential contaminants and hazardous materials. It must plan ahead and make environmental stewardship every Airman's job.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## **TAX CODE CHANGE BENEFITS TROOPS**

President Bush has signed a bill amending the tax code to allow service members in combat zones to also contribute to Individual Retirement Accounts, the White House announced Wednesday.

The Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act, which Bush signed on May 29, means that troops can both contribute to IRAs and take advantage of the tax-free status of their pay. Until this year, the federal tax code prohibited service members from doing both at the same time.

The HERO Act is also retroactive to tax year 2004, officials said. Any service member who did not make IRA contributions during 2004 or 2005 while also eligible for combat zone tax exclusion can now do so.

Further, the retroactive filings can be made until May 28, 2009 — three years after the date of enactment.

Military compensation earned by service members while in a combat zone is excluded from federal income tax.

For enlisted troops, all pay and entitlements are tax-free. Officers can exclude from taxes up to the maximum amount of

enlisted pay, plus imminent danger pay for the months they are in a combat zone.

For more information on making retroactive IRA contributions, see unit finance advisers or the Internal Revenue Web site at: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## **BUNDLES FOR 433<sup>rd</sup> BABIES**

Bundles for Babies is a program designed to help welcome the newest members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> family.

Education and resources are available at the Family Support Center. Programs are available for families from birth to postpartum. Allot yourself one hour to view an informative presentation on child care.

Upon completion, participants receive a bundle valued at \$60 including: a large canvas tote bag, thermal weave plaid cotton crib blanket, chambray towel set, chambray wash puppy, white knit crib sheet, 2-pack printed cotton receiving blankets, 4-pack cotton diapers, 2-pack sleep-n-play, 2-pack onesies, two pairs of booties, all brought to you courtesy of the Air Force Aid Society.

For more information call the 433<sup>rd</sup> Family Support Office at 925-3650 or drop by Bldg 909, Rm 109.

Don't forget to tap into the free resources provided by Military One Source at 1-800-707-5784.

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



**Tech. Sgt. Raffaele Dickerson** recently became the new client support administrator for 433<sup>rd</sup> Wing staff agencies. Sergeant Dickerson is responsible for computer network access and deployment readiness for wing staff personnel.



Photo by Maj. Elena Milford



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Colleen McGee

**Staff Sgt. Daniel Troutman**, a 433<sup>rd</sup> Aerospace Ground Equipment Craftsman, is responsible for keeping ground support equipment operational.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Colleen McGee

**Master Sgt. Michelle Deviney**, from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and her pen pal Brianna Dominguez, a student at J.B. Passmore Elementary School, had a chance to share lunch before the school year ended. Students in Ms. Maria Jiminez' class pal up with wing members to help build reading and writing skills each year.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Colleen McGee

The new Air Force mission video will feature members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing like 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeremy Hooper, a pilot with the 68<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron. The video clips were filmed using an Alamo Wing pilot, loadmaster, fuels technician and a maintainer. The video, filmed by Air Force News Service, is planned to feature a message from Air Force Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mini Folklife Festival at the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Park offered a trip around the world during lunch.

Units sponsored booths reflecting various cultures with tastes from Italy, Germany, Hawaii, Lebanon, Mexico, American Indian, Cowboy Barbecue and American hot dogs and apple pie.

Booths were judged on decor, costume and originality. The best in each category earned a ribbon and applause.

To sponsor a booth next year, contact the Mini Folklife Festival chairperson, Ms. Herlinda Fernandez at 925-6658.

Recipes from the day are at <http://ww.433aw.afrc.af.mil/units/folklifefestival/index.asp>.

Enjoy.



**Mexican flavor was offered by the wing Hispanic Heritage Committee**



**The Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron hosted an American Indian booth with venison sausage, corn and a variation of Indian frybread.**



**Under the canopy of the Maintenance Group's Italian booth, attendees stepped straight into an Italian country kitchen.**



**The German offering from the Mission Support Squadron included "chicken dance" lessons, brautwurst and Saurkraut.**

## UTA SCHEDULE

**July**  
**A UTA July 8-9**  
**B UTA July 22-23**

**August**  
**A UTA August 5-6**  
**B UTA August 19-20**

**September**  
**A UTA September 9-10**  
**B UTA September 23-24**

**433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
**203 Galaxy Road, Suite 103**  
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