

# ALAMO WING

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U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

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

**Family Day  
Event Schedule  
Page 3**

**AES Chief  
busts bad guy  
Page 6**

**Reservist  
doubles deployment  
Page 9**

## This gray mare is more than she used to be

By Master Sergeant Collen McGee

*Wing Public Affairs*

**A**t age 55, most qualify for AARP, eat cheap at the local diner, get a discount at the movies and start to notice they are beginning to slow down physically.

For an airlift wing, aging is vastly different. For the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, the activity level on her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday is much higher than when she was a teenager.

In 1966, age 13, the Alamo Wing was pretty busy converting to the C-124 Globemaster from the C-119 flying boxcar. She was growing up and developing at an amazing rate to meet the needs in the world around her.

In her infancy, she was just as busy.

Life for the Alamo Wing started at full speed. There wasn't time to crawl before she had her first deployment orders. Within seven months of her birth, six of her planes were sent to post-war

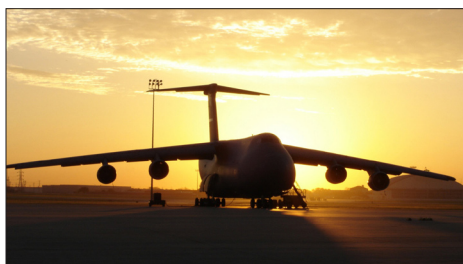


Photo by Senior Airman Daniel Pool, 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron

**The Alamo Wing currently has 16 C-5 Galaxy aircraft that fly seven days a week, 365 days a year.**



Germany with two more following shortly after.

The Alamo Wing is also an innovator. She was the first to do many things. In June of 1984 she became the first Reserve unit to own and operate her own fleet of C-5A Galaxy aircraft.

Name any major event in the past 55 years and without a doubt, the men and women of the Alamo Wing were among the first to respond. The Wing sent her forces to Oklahoma City, Khobar Towers, major hurricanes and a tsunami. If the world cried out, the Alamo Wing was there.

That willingness and ability was recognized in 1998 when the first ever Raincross Trophy was awarded. The Raincross Trophy replaced the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force Solano Trophy.

The Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command were not the only ones to recognize the wing as she matured.

At the age of 53, The City of San




Air Force Courtesy Photo

**A C-46 parked on the Brooks AFB ramp. The last C-46 left the Alamo Wing in March of 1958 to make room for the C-119.**

Antonio recognized the Wing for her achievements by naming her the first unit to receive the Patriot award. The award was previously given to the outstanding military member in the community.

Last year, the Alamo Wing had the most active year ever. She responded to a tsunami that struck Southwest Asia, a major earthquake that killed thousands in Pakistan, supported airlift for everyday and contingency operations and still managed to respond to three hurricanes.

At an age when the people she knows are slowing down and playing more golf, the Alamo Wing is at her peak. She's already got a full calendar for her 55<sup>th</sup> year. This year she'll add opening the first Formal Training Unit for C-5 Aircrew, owned and operated by the Reserve, to her list of activities.

Who knows, maybe for an Airlift Wing, life really begins at 55. 

## Alamo Wing

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# Command chief's final salute

By Chief Master Sgt. Carlos Massiatte

Wing Command Chief



It seems like yesterday I heard Brigadier General Ben Pieczynski, 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Commander, say, "Congratulations, I have selected you to be our next Command Chief Master Sergeant". I continued as Command Chief when Brigadier General John Fobian requested I stay until my retirement. I truly feel I've been tremendously blessed in my Air Force Reserve career and I owe a great deal to those leaders who had the confidence in me to lead this great organization for the past six years.

Shortly after becoming Command Chief, our country was engulfed by terrorist actions and we found ourselves in the first war of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Global War on Terror. What I witnessed in the ensuing years from each of the proud men and women of the 433<sup>rd</sup> AW, was an extraordinary call to arms and your response to the challenge of freedom's cause. It was nothing short of inspirational. Your pride and professionalism inspire me; your competence and ability propels our Wing and our Air Force to higher levels of excellence. I witnessed our Wing united as a team, as wingmen to each other, which enabled our C-5 airlift mission to move to the GWOT forefront. During this time, senior leadership and

I went forward to the Area of Responsibility. It was the right thing to do.

I believe we garner strength for our mission not only from the physical and mental arena, but also from the spiritual area. This reminds me of Isaiah 40:31, "they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." During trying times and countless missions, we never lost sight of our requirement to develop our No. 1 resource, our people. Professional development and career progression are essential to maintain capability and vigilance as we execute our mission.

Please take time every day to reach out and build stronger relationships, teams, improve skills and always keep an eye out for each other. Again, be a great wingman first and foremost.

I want to especially thank the family members of our Alamo Wing team; no doubt you are the 'wind beneath the wings' of our members. As I look toward retiring this month, I want to express my deep sense of gratitude to each of you for your service to our country and allowing me the privilege and honor of serving you.

May God bless you and may God bless America. 

## Chaplain's Corner

In Tribute to the Children of the Alamo Wing and Attached Units

Chaplain Lyle E. Von Seggern, 925-3556

433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Alamo Wing Chaplain Section

*"Train children in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not turn from it."*

-Proverbs 22: 6

**W**ith all my heart and prayers, I salute the children of our Alamo Wing and attached units. They sacrifice and endure so much when parents answer the call of

the United States of America to protect and defend the God given rights of the world's children. Our sincere prayer is that God blesses, in every way possible, all the children of our military and civilian warriors. May we dedicate ourselves to doing all we can to encourage and support our very own.

The Chaplain Service Team salutes our precious children and their parents.

# Career map from incoming command chief

By Chief Master Sgt. John Shroyer  
— Incoming Wing Command Chief

The distance between flight line crew chief and Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant may seem far to some, but there is a map of my journey.

I was born and raised in Elmira, N.Y. and entered the Air Force at the Syracuse, N.Y. Induction Center in 1968. My first assignment was as a T-38A flight line crew chief with the 3640<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Wing, Laredo AFB, Texas. After getting promoted to Sergeant (E-4) I was placed on Red X orders authorizing me to sign off critical inspections. In addition, I became the row chief responsible for coordinating maintenance on 11 aircraft and the safety of 25 junior enlisted mechanics.

My next stop was almost four years later when transferred to RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom. I was the NCOIC of Crash Recovery as a Staff Sergeant, supervising 25 aircraft mechanics.

I then moved to Griffis AFB Rome, N. Y. and served for a little over a year as the NCOIC of the wheel and tire



shop before transferring to the 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron. There I became the crew chief on the wing commander's aircraft.

I was honorably discharged in March, 1978 but that was not the end.

I was out of the military for a little over six years but I missed the family atmosphere of the military.

By this time, I'd earned my Bachelors degree also.

I reenlisted in the 433<sup>rd</sup> as a 3-level Staff Sergeant in the Field Maintenance Squadron's Fuel Shop working for Master Sgt. Ramiro Banda. I was promoted to Technical Sergeant in 1988 and was given the additional duty of Squadron Ground Safety NCO.

On Oct. 15, 1990, Lt. Col. Ken Wunderlich, who was then the Commander of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Avionics Maintenance Squadron, picked me to be the First Sergeant. I stayed at what became the Component Repair Squadron until transferring to the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in 1996.

While at AES, I've been deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terror. When Command Chief Carlos


Massiatte deployed in 2003, I was selected to fill in until he returned.

I've been President of the Chiefs Group, am still the Senior Advisor to the First Sergeant's Group and I helped write the constitution and bylaws for the wing's Top Three Association.

All of this brings me to these points; I've been an enlisted leader my entire military career. My focus is on enlisted progression within career fields. I am an advocate for enlisted personnel to move around in an effort to further their own military career.

As the Wing Command Chief, I will strive to continue that trend. I believe that being prepared and ready for promotion rather than waiting to be promoted is the way to go.

With that said, Professional Military Education is a priority for me. If you are eligible, sign up or attend in residence. Working with General Fobian to guide this ship we call the Alamo Wing will be a rewarding challenge.

As your senior enlisted advisor to the Commander, my door will always be open to you and my experience will be available to help you navigate the map of your career. 

## October 14 Family Day Events

7:30 a.m. Family Day 5K Fitness Run/Walk at the Bennett Fitness Center, Kelly USA

9:30 a.m. Command Chief Carlos Massiatte Retirement in the Fuel Cell, Bldg. 828

11:00 a.m. Family Day official kick-off at Stillman Park.

8:00 p.m. 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hangar Dance in the Fuel Cell, Bldg. 828

All the food booths, games and amusements will be in the park. Information booths from wing agencies and area businesses will be available at the Fuel Cell and a C-5 will be parked outside of the hangar for tours throughout the day.

Parking is available at Stillman Park and busses will make shuttle runs between the Fuel Cell and Stillman Park beginning after the opening ceremony at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m.

Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and get comfortable while you enjoy the events of the day.

Above all, bring your family and let them see what you do when you are on military status. Let the wing leadership take the day to thank them for their support. Without the support of our Reserve families, the mission would be mission impossible.

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

# Get Involved

Alamo Wing members are encouraged to invite their civilian bosses to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bosses' Day. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your civilian employer's commitment to your reserve duty or to help them understand what you do when you are on duty with the Alamo Wing. The event includes a flight in a C-5 and some face-to-face time with the Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. John Fobian.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bosses' Day nomination form

November 18, 2006

(Please print or type information legibly)



### Reservist's Information

Reservist's Rank/Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_ Civilian Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Employer's Information

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Business Mailing Address w/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Employer's complete e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

(Please "X" your choice) I will \_\_\_\_\_ I will not \_\_\_\_\_ join my boss for the picnic.

**Official rules:** Each reservist may submit ONE civilian employer or supervisor; ART supervisors are not qualified. More than one supervisor may be nominated, but selection will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Completed forms must be received by Public Affairs no later than Friday, November 3. Forms may be mailed to: 433 AW/PA, 203 Galaxy Rd, Suite 103, Lackland AFB, Texas 78236-0112. Forms are also available on-line at <http://www.433aw.afrc.af.mil/>. Due to limited seating aboard the aircraft, nominated bosses will go through a selection and approval process administered by the wing commander for the orientation flight. Those bosses selected for the flight will receive a letter of invitation from the commander informing them of their selection. Please do not promise your boss a seat aboard the aircraft.

Bosses will also receive aerial port, aeromedical evacuation, and maintenance shop tours. Reservists may join their bosses for the picnic, immediately following the flight, for approximately \$9; caterer and location is not yet determined. This cost covers the troops' meals; bosses' meals will be paid for separately. Payment is due in cash ONLY, no later than 3 November. Final details will be announced in your unit Commander's Call topics. For more information, please contact Ms. Elsa Martinez at (210) 925-1347 or Public Affairs at (210) 925-5194 or by e-mail at [433aw.pa@lackland.af.mil](mailto:433aw.pa@lackland.af.mil).

# Politics, military: keep it between the lines

By Master Sergeant Collen McGee

*Wing Public Affairs*

**P**olitics and business don't mix--especially when your business is serving in the Air Force Reserve. There are some things you can do when you are in uniform, but posting campaign yard signs, on your way home from weekend training, while in uniform, is not one of them.

You can go by your local polling location and cast your vote at lunch. You can even tell the world you are a Reservist, in a generic way, while being interviewed by the evening news at a local political fundraiser. But if in uniform at that fundraiser, you are coloring outside of official lines.

The boundaries can be confusing. There are some clear signs in place to keep you from making an error that could get you into hot water at the unit and still allow you to be an active, involved citizen. Most of those rules are covered during the annual ethics briefings given by your Judge Advocate General's office.

"There are ethics rules that apply to all of us irrespective of the political scene," said Lt. Colonel Rebecca Klein, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing. "As a supervising officer, or higher ranking individual, you can not be asking for or soliciting business or money from a subordinate in grade, rank or title. It applies just as much if fund raising for dollars or campaigning for votes."

Colonel Klein explained the issue falls under the rules governing the use of command influence. Under those rules, using your official position to gain support for anything that is not supported by official endorsement is an improper use of command influence.

To make the politics and military roads a bit harder to navigate, there are some major differences in the rules governing the Reserve forces than those that apply to the active duty Air

Force.

"The main thing, in general, is that the Air Force Reserve and the Guard are allowed to run (for elected office) at any level, local, state and national," said Colonel Klein. "The prohibition extends only to those who are either active duty or Reserve on extended active duty of 180 days or more."

There are still some obvious restrictions that require clear separations between political activity and military duty.

"While on orders of any kind, or UTAs, they can not do fundraising, can't distribute literature for themselves, or anyone else, and can't make presentations on behalf of a candidate," said Colonel Klein.

With a close Reserve family, unit co-workers are bound to ask about an election if you are running for office. Colonel Klein said answering isn't a problem as long as there is a clear line between answers and overt campaigning.

"You can talk about, factually, what's been going on but you can't promote yourself or persuade someone," said Colonel Klein.

Not many members of the wing will be election candidates. More might be volunteers for someone else's campaign. Volunteering to work at a campaign office or canvassing for votes are activities Reservists are able to do that active-duty forces can not. Again, the same rules of not doing so in uniform apply. Colonel Klein has some practical advice to make sure there is no way anyone will even perceive a conflict of interests. Basically, make sure that when in uniform or on any sort of military status, there is a clear line between the two to maintain the apolitical requirements for military members.

"Take your uniform off before going (to a election venue or rally). Never mix. Don't make even a phone call while in uniform on behalf of a

candidate," said Colonel Klein.

The Air Force is not out to make Reservists uninvolved citizens. In fact, Colonel Klein was a candidate for federal government in the last elections and found the experience personally rewarding.

"It's exciting and exhausting. A 24/7 job. My area was 350 miles long and there was a lot of travel," said Colonel Klein. "It was a roller coaster ride. One minute you're up, the next you're down, and then you're up again."

Even with the peaks and valleys she enjoyed the personal interaction along the campaign trail.


"It was a good experience and you meet a lot of good people along the way," she said.

With the amount of work needed, an aggressive campaign may not be for everyone. As a reservist and a citizen, it is still good to be informed and involved in the decision making process for decisions affecting life and career issues. There are activities within the political process open to Reservists. A few can even be done in uniform.

"Things you can do while on duty -- you can vote, write to your representatives, have a bumper sticker on your car, write op-eds (opinion articles to the local newspaper) as a Reservist, in the generic sense, but don't sign them with your official title and rank," said Colonel Klein.

Staying informed is another way to be politically involved. There are reliable sources covering legislation and policy making that affect the Reserve.

Good sources on political topics include: Reserve Officer's Association, newspapers, web sites, delegation notices, DOD.gov and the Air Force Sergeant's Association.

No matter what type of involvement you choose, from active citizen to the campaign trail, know where to draw the lines. For more information, check AFI 51-902 or ask the JAG. 

# Reserve medic makes big bust Vegas style

By Staff Sgt. Carlos Treviño

*Wing Public Affairs*

It was the last night of the Medical Readiness Planners Symposium in June when a situation at a fast food restaurant turned 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Readiness planner into a reluctant hero.

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Christa, with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and his wife, Sandra, stopped at the eatery inside a hotel casino for dinner. After ordering, his wife sat down at a table while he went to fill the drink cups. The man in front of him began to argue with an employee at the soft drink machine.

“Can you step off to the side, I just want to get some ice,” he asked the two.

But that request wasn’t about to move the problem away from the soft drinks.

The employee snapped at Chief Christa to stay out of the issue as it was between them and he didn’t welcome any interference.

“The other man then reached behind him towards his back left pocket and eased up his T-shirt,” said the Chief. He was reaching for the handle of a .45-caliber pistol.

Chief Christa realized he had to make some quick decisions. He’d been doing that for several days and was still in the mode of quick analysis and response.

“I was planning for worst case war all week long,” said Chief Christa.

He had to ask himself if he could get to his wife and get out of there. And, he had to have that answer in seconds.

“Honestly, if I would have had a clear shot (out) and could have got my family to safety, I would’ve run,” said Chief Christa. Due to the layout of the diner, he didn’t think escape was an option.

“I realized there was no way away



U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

**Chief Master Sergeant Rodney Christa, medical readiness planner for the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.**

from this,” the Chief said. Action was the only option.

Memories of his days as a corrections officer returned. He grabbed the gunman’s left wrist, preventing him from drawing the weapon. The suspect twisted, raised right elbow and caught the Chief in the head.

The employee tackled both of them into an occupied table and onto the floor. “We were wrestling on the ground until security grabbed us, we were all handcuffed. They took statements, then they let me go,” he said.

The encounter seemed to last hours but, according to his wife, it was about two minutes.

“The fight on the ground was the most intense thing I have ever been involved in,” said the same Chief who accompanied the First Marine Division over the Iraq border when operations there first kicked off.

“It went from zero to 100 miles an hour back down to zero,” he said. Security confirmed the gun was loaded and thanked Chief Christa for his quick reaction.

The local police also issued a thank-you for his quick actions.

“I wouldn’t second guess someone in a situation like that. That turned

out to be the right decision,” said Sgt. John Loretto of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. “How outstanding is that,” he said.

Afterwards, the bumps and bruises weren’t bad but his hands were still shaking.

“I guess it was the adrenaline or the fear,” said Chief Christa. “I was fighting for what could have been my life. All I was worried about was that gun and keeping it from coming out. I was able to keep just enough force on his arm so he couldn’t pull it out,” said Chief Christa.

When the incident was over, his wife was in tears, upset he risked his life in the fight.

“What were you thinking, why didn’t you just walk away,” his wife asked. “You almost made your daughter an orphan,” she said.

“She was amazed at the amount of people who did not help, or didn’t want to get involved,” he said.

“It was not that big a deal, it was just a few seconds,” he said. “I went over every single option I had in a split second. It’s amazing how fast time slows down, or how slow he was going.”


Once the commotion was over, he realized his cups were crushed.

“I went up and asked the girl at the counter, can I get some new cups?” said Chief Christa. “And she said, ‘I’m sorry sir, but we count those.’”

Chief Christa did get new cups from the manager. He and his wife then finished their dinner and went back to the hotel without putting a single quarter in a slot machine.

“No need to gamble, I already took my risk. That was it. Done,” he said.

“I figure I got lucky,” Chief Christa said.

“I consider it a blessing I made it out, nobody got hurt, the bad guy got arrested, and I’ve got a story to tell my grand kids,” he said. 

## Volunteerism is high

so there should be ...

# no surprise when a Reservist stays behind

By Master Sergeant Collen McGee

Wing Public Affairs

About 30 members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron spent the summer months deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. They all returned to Lackland in September. All but one.

Staff Sgt. Alberto Smith, a structures technician, chose to stay behind for an additional 120-day tour, after his first Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation.

Being gone 120 days is tough on a family. Add another tour and the stress level can escalate. Sergeant Smith did some advance planning to reduce the stress on his wife and daughter and advises others to do the same.

"I made sure every loose end at home was wrapped up before I left," said Sergeant Smith. "If you have any obligations, set up your direct pay for all bills."

The advantage of direct pay for those bills normally paid by mail or online is that you aren't at the mercy of mail from the desert or phone calls to business offices that are not on your time zone.

"It is real easy to get your days mixed up here due to the time difference and that (bill paying) is one thing you do not need to worry about," said Sergeant Smith.

Sergeant Smith has enough to worry about while his little girl goes through a rapid development stage in her life.

"I have 2-year-old daughter who is growing up so fast and I am missing it," said Sergeant Smith. "But my wife is doing a great job and she explains to my daughter what it is that I am doing away from home everyday."

What he is doing each day is dif-

ferent from what he gets to do at the home unit during Unit Training Assemblies.

"Well, at my home unit on UTA weekends we do a lot of CBT (Computer Based Training) training and upgrade training," said Sergeant Smith. "Here, you should already be ready to work. The only training you will get here is on-the-job training."

His OJT is providing practical experience for his civilian job in San Antonio and as a structures specialist in the Reserve. That experience also gives him an appreciation for quality workmanship.

"(One of the traits) I'm taking with me is to be a little more diligent on the details of a project," said Sergeant Smith. "I build homes and I have seen a lot of construction out here, good and bad, that will help me in my civilian job."

The need for quality comes from being in a contingency environment.


"It is a lot more high tempo," said Sergeant Smith. "Sometimes you get a little too relaxed in a controlled environment and here you have no choice but to get the job done and do the job right."

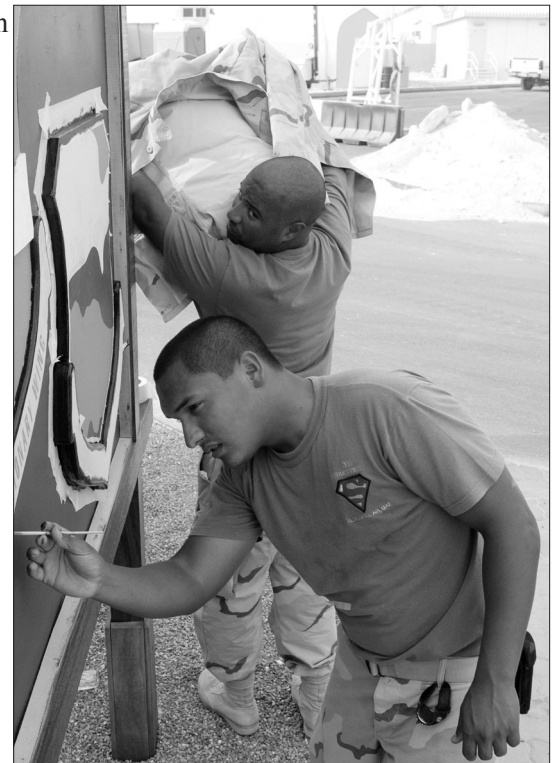
Spending time on deployment working in your job specialty and improving skills through practice really isn't surprising development. The unexpected part of this deployment for Sergeant Smith was on a personal level.

"The biggest surprise is how close everyone gets after living with each other for four months," said Sergeant Smith. "It is like a home away from home, you are almost sad to see it end. I did not foresee this at all. I mean, not only

did I meet new people, but I ran into people I knew from past duty assignments while on active duty and in tech. school."

When this first deployment experience finally ends in January, Sergeant Smith will have a new base of knowledge for his squadron mates at home and for himself.

"I am going to know exactly what to expect on my next one since this is my first deployment," said Sergeant Smith. "I will not be as surprised. (I'll know) what is to be expected on these types of deployments and I can pass that on to my counterparts." 



U.S. Air Force by Master Sgt. Stan Coleman

Senior Airman Israel Ortiz and Staff Sgt. Alberto Smith of the 380<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineer Structures Shop, exemplify the true meaning of teamwork during refurbishing of the 380<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing's headquarters sign. Sergeant Smith, deployed from the Alamo Wing, keeps desert wind and dust off of Airman Ortiz while he trims the wing's coat of arms.



# Note Worthy



## Promotions



Maria Reyes, MDG



William Foley, AMDS



Robert Balance, MXS  
Charles Barclay, CES  
Stephen Colbeth, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Edward Gomez, CES  
Gilbert Govea, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Dennis Guerrero, CES  
Rebecca McKee, MSG  
John Romo, AMDS  
Frank Tellez, LRS



Antonio Aviles, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
David DeLeon, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
Sara Digennaro, MSS  
Roger Finley, ASTS  
Federico Flores, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Mario Guerrero, OSS  
Kimberly Martin, AMDS  
Jose Munoz, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Samantha Barker, AW  
Manuel Rios, MXS  
Mary Ronald Shumate, AES  
Jonathan Starmer, AW  
Neil Townley, AW  
Lester Wallace, MXS  
Anthony Wilson, MSS



Jose Ruiz, ALCF  
Randy Warner, CF

Marc Angulo, MXS  
Charles Austin, CF  
Marcus Carter, ASTS  
Dominico Delafuente  
Michael Dickerson, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Alfredo Garcia, LRS  
Kay Hallberg, ASTS  
Jeremy Hawkins, LRS  
Diana Hernandez, LRS  
Nicholas Huerta, MDS  
John Jimenez, MXS  
Boojai Jones, CES  
Robert Martinez, 68<sup>th</sup> AS  
Alejandro Mendoza, MXS  
Paula Naranjo, MXS  
Quentin Perez, MXS  
Annette Torres, AMDS  
Nathan Vick, AMDS  
Nathan Walker, AMDS



Katherine Bull, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
Jamie Vianca Cantu, MDS

Douglas Clifton, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Jennifer Hines, 74<sup>th</sup> APS  
Angela Hunnicutt, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Tina Kosikowski, MDS  
Eric Martinez, SVS  
Reyna Ramirez, CES  
Cassandra Rangle, ASTS  
Cody Sanchez, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
David Sanchez, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
Lauren Snyder, CES  
Terrance Spann, 26<sup>th</sup> APS  
Zulema Mar Vania, AW  
Adriana Verastegui, MDS



Caryn Bordner, ASTS  
Ean Duke, MXS  
Refia Grant, AMDS  
Dale Nation Jr., CES  
Jonathan Osorio, MSS



Rene Isarraras, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS

## Newcomers

### Lieutenant Colonel

Timothy Bradbury, AMDS  
Benjamin Po, AMDS

### Major

Tracie Hammelman, MDS

### Master Sergeant

Joseph Maggio, AW

### Technical Sergeant

Thomas Brewer, AMXS  
David Pifer, CF  
William Thurmond JR, CES  
Wade Wagley, MXS

### Staff Sergeant

Brett Alvey, OSS  
David Compton, AMDS  
Patrick Flores, 710<sup>th</sup> IOF  
Michael Lara Gonzalez, AMXS  
Troy Halvorson, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Megan Scharfenstine, AMDS

### Senior Airman

Alex Granados, MXS  
Courtney Laurell, ASTS  
Michael Morales, MXS

Gene Thompson Jr., MXS  
Kevaughn Young, AMXS

### Airman 1st Class

Dedrean Dixon, CES  
Class David Pritzker, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS  
Class Ted Sibrian Jr, 26<sup>th</sup> APS

### Airman

Jessica Martinez, MXS

### Airman Basic

Jessica Q. Joseph, MSS  
Richard Schwing II, 556<sup>th</sup> RHS

## Quarterly Awards

Brig. Gen. John Fobian, 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing commander, congratulates the following Airmen, non-commissioned officer and senior non-commissioned officer award winners for the 3rd Quarter of fiscal year 2006. The competition was keen. All personnel are to be commended for a job well done. The winners in their respective categories are:

### Airman Category

Senior Airman Sean Balyeat, MXS

### NCO Category

Tech. Sgt. Dwight Stewart, MXS

### SNCO Category

Master Sgt. Robert Kusterer, 68<sup>th</sup> AS

## 2006 Alamo Wing Hispanic Heritage Sixth Annual Scholarship Recipients

Ms. Daizha Gallo, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Larry Gallo, 433<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Bernadette Hernandez, a member of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron



# TRICARE Makes Allowable Charges Easy to Find

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – In support of the health care initiatives in President Bush's management agenda, TRICARE Management Activity has posted its allowable charges on an easy-to-use Web site.

The cost of medical care varies widely across the country, and neither hospitals nor doctors' offices usually post their charges for various procedures. That makes it hard for patients to judge if they're being charged a reasonable amount for operations or examinations.

By making its maximum allowable charges easily available to the public, TRICARE's intent is to level the playing field a little between medical service providers and users.

"We have a responsibility to help educate the public on health care is-

sues," said William Winkenwerder, Jr., assistant secretary of defense (health affairs.) "With medical costs continuing to spiral upward, the more the consumer knows, the better. This information could be especially useful for people with no insurance, who may be able to negotiate pricing with their physicians."

The new Web site shows the TRICARE Maximum Allowable Charge tables, listing the most frequently used procedures, more than 300 of them, and the amount TRICARE is legally allowed to pay for them. These charges are tied to Medicare allowable charges, effectively making them a federal standard for health care costs.

TRICARE figures the allowable charge from all professional (non-institutional) providers' bills nationwide,

with adjustments for specific localities, over the previous year. A claims processor can tell a provider the allowable charge amount for specific services or procedures and now, anyone can see the charges on the new Web site.

Anyone can use the rate table's itemized format to determine the appropriate charge for professional services, based on the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS.)

The charges in this table don't reflect discounts regional contractors may negotiate with TRICARE network providers, so they may differ from the amounts shown on TRICARE beneficiaries' explanation of benefits. The TRICARE allowable charges are listed on line at [www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges).

## New procedures improve crisis accountability

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – If a national emergency occurs, Air Force Reserve Command has improved procedures in place for keeping track of its military people and their families.

The command developed the procedures to prepare for future disasters after hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast last year.

"Our goal is to educate each individual on the importance of timely personnel accountability after any devastating event," said David Holly, AFRC personnel readiness operations branch chief.

Under the new procedures, com-

manders use a two-phase approach to account for their people. Each phase – pre and post – will be completed within 48 hours of notification to begin the accountability process.

People assigned to or living in an affected area must check in with the unit.

They should check in at the first available opportunity, but no later than 48 hours after the start of the crisis. People on temporary assignment or on leave in a disaster area should report their location and status to their unit of assignment.

"Personnel accountability is a top priority for Air Force Reserve Com-

mand," said Mr. Holly. "Our most important resources are our people and their families.

"In the event of a disaster, we need timely accountability of our people," he said. "Since we must always be prepared to accomplish our mission, we need to know their status and availability."

Reporting instructions are available on the command Web site <https://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/>. People can link to the instructions by selecting the "Hot & New Items" icon, going to the drop down menu and selecting "Personnel Accountability." (AFRC News Service)

## Remember the Alamo Wing

*In October of 1993, the Alamo Wing began airlifting main battle tanks and soldiers into Somalia. The non-stop flights took three aerial refuelings.*

*Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.*

————— John Steinbeck  
US novelist (1902 - 1968)



# News Bites...

## **FAMILY DAY AND WING 55<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Saturday, October 14 is family day at the Alamo Wing and the wing's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The day's events include a farewell to the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing Command Chief, Carlos Massiatte.

Events include; 11:00 a.m. picnic and games at Stillman Park. Displays at the Fuel Cell include various work centers and a C-5 will be open on the flight line for tours. Busses will go between locations throughout the day. A Dance at 8:00 p.m. in the Fuel Cell hangar, will mark the celebration of the wing's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Bring the family and enjoy the day!

## **CONTACT CENTER**

The Air Reserve Personnel Center's Reserve Personnel Contact Center in Denver is open during every primary unit training assembly from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (MST). The Contact Center number is DSN 926-6528 or toll-free 1-800-525-0102. "Our team looks forward to providing world-class support to our Citizen Airmen," said Col. Ann Shippy, ARPC commander. She encourages Reservists to establish a virtual Personnel Center-Guard & Reserve (vPC-GR) account so future support can be provided.

## **AIMPOINT OF AN UNRIVALED WINGMAN**

To be more combat effective, the Air Force Reserve must be proactive in its force planning. That means we will use our resources wisely to produce combat capabilities needed by the Air Force. We will match capability with location to ensure our people can realistically perform the mission. We will develop a resource allocation strategy to chart how we organize, train and equip as an Unrivaled Wingman.

## **TIME OFF AWARD**

Air reserve technicians still can't use time-off award hours to cover absences from their civilian position when performing military duty or travel.

In a Sept. 12 memorandum, Maj. Gen. Allan Poulin, Vice Commander of Air Force Reserve Command, reaffirmed the policy that has been in effect since December 1992.

The command received approval from the Air Force to reinstate, for six months, any time-off award hours employees would otherwise lose during extended active duty because the policy prevented them from using those hours while on extended active duty.

For more information, check with civilian personnel.

## **ON TARGET, AGAIN**

For the sixth year in a row, Air Force Reserve Command has exceeded its recruiting goal. AFRC Recruiting Service surpassed its goal for the 2006 recruiting year Aug. 31 when it accessed its 8,001<sup>st</sup> recruit. Col. Francis Mungavin, AFRC Recruiting Service commander, said the success came from hard work, outstanding recruiter training programs, a fair and equitable career management program, attainable recruiting goals, and targeted marketing strategies.

## **433<sup>rd</sup> ASTS WINS DOD Level SURGEON GENERAL AWARD**

The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States selected seven units and 17 Reservists as winners of Air Force Reserve Command's 2005 AMSUS awards.

The award for Aero-medical Staging Squadron (250 bed) went to the Alamo Wing's own 433<sup>rd</sup> ASTS.

## **EVERY AIRMAN IS A COMMUNICATOR**

In his latest Letter to Airmen, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne reminds every Airman that they are communicators who are able to tell the world the Air Force story.

"To get this message out, we've embarked on an enhanced Strategic Com-

munication program. Our Strategic Communication efforts will build better relationships with key audiences and the support that is critical to operational success, force modernization and the development of our most precious resource: Airmen.

Our major enhancement is you. The success of this effort will rely on making every Airman an ambassador for our Air Force, at home and abroad. Your stories resonate the most with local newspapers, schools and rotary clubs.

The American public looks up to you as a model of integrity, and by sharing your experiences you are the best spokesmen for our Air Force."

To read the entire letter, go to <http://www.af.mil/library/viewpoints/secaf.asp?id=251>.

## **COMMUNICATION TOOLS FROM PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

To make sure you have the tools to communicate the Air Force message, make sure you check with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Public Affairs office before posting information on a public web page. Let the PA staff help you develop a message that is clear and is within guidelines for security, accuracy, propriety and policy.

Call the PA office at 925-5194 for more information.

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



Photo by Master Sgt. Colleen McGee

Tech. Sgt. Amanda Sebastian, a medical technician with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aerospace Medicine Squadron gets a huge hug from her little nephew on her return from Balad. Sergeant Sebastian was one of four AMDS medical personnel to join about 30 members of the 433<sup>rd</sup> Aeromedical Staging Squadron when they voluntarily deployed to run the casualty staging facility at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad AB, Iraq for 120 days. At home in the 433<sup>rd</sup> AMDS, Sergeant Sebastian is the assistant NCOIC of physical exams.



Photo by Master Sgt. Colleen McGee

The Alamo Wing's newest Chief Master Sgt., Maria Reyes, accepted her chief stripes at a ceremony in the wing commander's conference room on September 8. Chief Reyes is the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Group superintendent. Her official date of promotion was September 1.



Photo by Master Sgt. Colleen McGee

Second Lt. Miranda Williams, a nurse with the 433<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron, gives Master Sgt. Roque Fuentes, from the 74<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, his flu shot during his annual physical.

# Buildings almost ready, teachers prepared

*Editor's Note: This is the fourth article a series about the C-5 Formal Training Unit construction. The next article will welcome the first official student, arriving this month.*

*The schoolhouse will begin operating at approximately 25 percent and reach full capacity of 600 students per year by October 2007.*

**By Senior Airman Jonathan Simmons**  
*Wing Public Affairs*

**W**ith only days left before the first student enters the C-5 Formal Training Unit, a select group of expert loadmasters and flight engineers set out to become expert instructors.

During July and August, 10 instructors from Detachment 1 visited Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to observe, learn and become certified to teach.

The training at Altus also certifies them as Community College of the Air Force faculty instructors.

"All the instructors we hire are already line-mission instructors and have two-year degrees," said Chief Master Sgt. Augie DeFrancesco, chief flight engineer for Det. 1. "That means they're qualified to teach new unit members who have already attended the initial course."

By October 2007, when Det 1 is

fully staffed, all instructors will be certified to teach the initial course.

"This training is important because we are taking on a new aircrew training mission," said Chief DeFrancesco, "Now we're teaching initial students to fly and operate the C-5."

"The mission has grown now," said Chief Abundis. "At Altus we learned the rigors of teaching students who know less."

The FTU will train new Airmen who've gone to Basic Military Training the six-week initial aircrew train-

ing at the Center for Excellence on the Lackland Annex. The FTU will also train cross-trainees.

Although FTU pilot trainees do not receive CCAF credits for their course, faculty instructor pilots must be certified as instructors and evaluators.


"We plan to take C-5 training above and beyond where it is now," said Chief DeFrancesco. "We plan to produce an even better product by setting a higher standard, higher goals and pursuing them with highly qualified instructors." 



Photo by Master Sgt. Colleen McGee

An almost completed building in the Formal Training Unit complex stands ready for finishing touches like electrical and interior work. The building won't be complete when the first few students arrive, but temporary classrooms are ready

## UTA SCHEDULE

**October**  
**Combined UTA**  
**Oct. 14-15**

**November**  
**A UTA Nov. 4-5**  
**B UTA Nov. 18-19**

**December**  
**A UTA Dec. 2-3**  
**B UTA Dec. 9-10**

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