

# Peacemaker

A professional team, delivering bombing, airlift support, training and combat support to combatant commanders... anytime, anywhere

Vol. 39 No. 3

Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

Jan. 23, 2004



## 7th Bomb Wing

Sortie goals as of Wednesday

Monthly	Flown	Current Status
57	38	+1
46	25	-4
70	50	+4

## What's Inside



### Quarterly awards

See Page 3



### ACC award winner

See Page 4



### New dorm policy

See Page 9



### STEP promotions

See Page 16

## Weekend Weather

### SATURDAY

Isolated showers

High 55

Low 38



### SUNDAY

Partly cloudy

High 63

Low 39



Weather courtesy of 7th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

## 317th Airlift Group Goal

As of Jan. 14

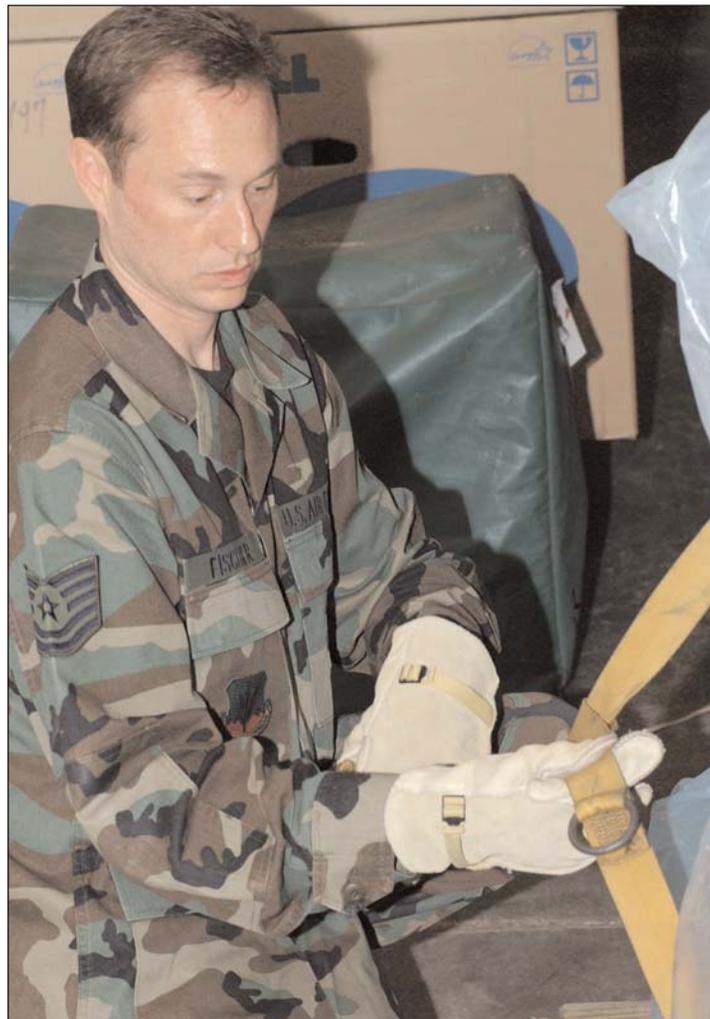


Departure  
Reliability  
Goal

78%

Current  
Departure  
Reliability

60.9%



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

## Tightening up

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Fischer, 7th Communications Squadron NCO-in-charge of visual information, tightens down a pallet in preparation for the Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection Tuesday. The Phase I ORI kicked off Wednesday and is expected to end Monday.

# Dyess Senior NCO awarded Bronze Star

By Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds

Dyess Public Affairs

A Dyess sortie generation flight chief with the 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was presented the Bronze Star Jan. 8 for outstanding achievement during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Senior Master Sgt. Frank Ripley earned the award while serving as a C-130 aircraft maintenance superintendent near Kyrgyzstan between February and May 2003.

The Bronze Star is awarded to people in any branch of the military who distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

"Winning this award is a huge honor," Sergeant Ripley said. "It came as a complete surprise."

According to the citation that accompanied the award, Sergeant Ripley's leadership of 64 maintainers working on six C-130s resulted in the delivery of more than 5,600 tons of combat supplies and 10,350 passengers.

See Star, Page 10

# 317th AG C-130 pilot presented with Air Medal

By Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds  
Dyess Public Affairs

A 40th Airlift Squadron pilot was presented the Air Medal for meritorious achievement by Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, Jan. 8 for his actions during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Carlos Salinas earned the award while serving as C-130 lead

aircraft commander during an airdrop of paratroopers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division over southwestern Afghanistan in February.

The Air Medal is awarded to U.S. servicemembers, civilians and foreign military people for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievements while participating in aerial flight in actual combat in support of operations.

According to the citation that accompanied the award, then-Captain Salinas and his crew successfully executed a mass paratrooper airdrop to a remote, unmarked, desert drop-zone. The 82nd Airborne were then about to complete a successful insertion into a former Al-Qaeda safe haven.

See Salinas, Page 10

**PUMA'S VECTOR**

Okay team, the Air Combat Command inspector general arrived on Wednesday and we are now fourth and goal. It's up to all of us to score the winning goal for this Operational Readiness Inspection. Just as in the Super Bowl, no one person can win the game -- it takes everyone on the team working together to get the job done.

You've all worked hard the last few months for this ORI. Don't let all your hard work and training fall by the wayside. Don't fumble the ball. The ORI is not finished until the IG has left the field.

Vince Lombardi once said, "I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle -- victorious."

Our cause is winning and our field is the ORI. Keep doing the great things you're doing and we will be victorious on the field of battle!

**Congratulations!**

to Lt. Col. Charles Hyde, 317th Airlift Group assistant deputy commander for operations, on his selection for promotion to colonel.

**This week in Dyess History**

**Jan 15** -- Lt. Col. James Green, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, entered active duty in 1984.

• Maj. William Robinson, 7th Communications Squadron commander, entered active duty in 1989.

**Jan 21** -- Col. Jack Wylie, 7th Bomb Wing Inspector General, entered active duty in 1975.

**Jan 19** -- The U.S. Army

dropped three two-pound sandbags in the first simulated bomb drop experiment in 1910.

**Jan 21** -- The Army made the first radio-telephonic transmission from an aircraft in 1911.

**Jan. 24** -- Gen. Carl Spaatz was named the first chief of staff of the Army Air Forces in 1946.

**Jan. 25** -- The USAF adopted a slate-blue uniform in 1949.

**Action Line**

The Action Line provides a direct line of communication between Col. Jonathan George, 7th Bomb Wing commander, and the people of Dyess. As a general rule, people should use their chain of command or contact the agency involved first, however, if you are not satisfied, call 6-3355 or e-mail [action@dyess.af.mil](mailto:action@dyess.af.mil) and leave your message.

Leaving your name and phone number ensures you will receive a personal reply by phone. The *Peacemaker* staff reserves the right to edit all incoming Action Lines before publication. Not all Action Lines may be published.

**Digital Doctors?**

**Q** I would like to submit a solution for the mess of trying to get an appointment at the Dyess clinic. I believe the answer is right here at our fingertips -- an e-mail or other online user interface similar to finance or the education office where customers either email their request for an appointment, or else go to a web portal and "sign in" from their home or office, then wait for an email confirmation or phone call as required. Perhaps this would help expedite the appointments process and take some of the load off our clinic professionals.

**A** Your suggestion is timely and on target. Within the next four to six months, we hope to begin using TRICARE Online, which will allow patients to schedule appointments using their computer. Once some details have been ironed out, we will notify everyone of the start date.

Take the *Peacemaker* readership survey!  
Let your voice be heard! Go to

**[www.ice.disa.mil](http://www.ice.disa.mil)**

For more information, call Stephanie Kraly at  
696-2936.  
(Dyess Information Management)

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# Team Dyess quarterly award winners



## Airman



**Senior Airman Michael Bilharz**  
**Unit:** 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
**Job title:** Crew chief  
**H o m e t o w n :** Hershey, Pa.

**Time at Dyess:** Two years  
**Time in Air Force:** Two years and five months  
**Hobbies:** Biking, running, snowboarding and mountain climbing.  
**Goals:** To make staff sergeant my first time testing, earn my CCAF and bachelor's degrees.

## NCO



**Tech. Sgt. James McGee III**  
**Unit:** 317th Maintenance Squadron  
**Job title:** NCO in-charge of maintenance training scheduling

**Hometown:** Carlsbad, N.M.  
**Time at Dyess:** Two years  
**Time in Air Force:** Sixteen years  
**Hobbies:** Road cycling, camping and reading.  
**Goals:** To earn my bachelor's and master's degrees before I retire. I also want to make master sergeant.

## Senior NCO



**Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Bush**  
**Unit:** 7th Services Squadron  
**Job title:** Food superintendent  
**H o m e t o w n :** Philadelphia

**Time at Dyess:** Four years  
**Time in Air Force:** Twenty-two years  
**Hobbies:** Coin collecting, watching movies, barbecuing and spending time with my family.  
**Goals:** To earn my bachelor's degree, make chief and be the best father and husband I can.

## Company grade officer



**Capt. Colanda Howard**  
**Unit:** 7th Medical Operations Squadron  
**Job title:** Clinical Psychologist  
**H o m e t o w n :** St. Louis

**Time at Dyess:** One year and four months  
**Time in Air Force:** Two years and six months  
**Hobbies:** Painting, sports, cooking, traveling, reading and music.  
**Goals:** Make major and complete an overseas assignment.

## Honor Guard airman



**Senior Airman Leslie Wall**  
**Unit:** 7th Component Maintenance Squadron  
**Job title:** Avionics technician  
**H o m e t o w n :** Phoenixville, Pa.

**Time at Dyess:** One year and 10 months  
**Time in Air Force:** Two years and five months  
**Hobbies:** Racquetball, horseback riding, painting and motorcycling.  
**Goals:** To make staff on my first try and earn my education degree.



## Honor Guard NCO



**Staff Sgt. Tony Rolof**  
**Unit:** 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
**Job title:** Crew chief  
**H o m e t o w n :** Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Time at Dyess:** Four years and six months  
**Time in Air Force:** Five years  
**Hobbies:** Working-out, sports and aviation.  
**Goals:** To earn a bachelor's degree and be the best NCO possible.

## First sergeant



**Master Sgt. Mark Meloy**  
**Unit:** 7th Operations Group  
**Job title:** First sergeant  
**H o m e t o w n :** Blairsville, Pa.  
**Time at Dyess:**

Three years and three months  
**Time in Air Force:** Twenty-three years and three months  
**Hobbies:** Racquetball, fishing, boating and spending time with my family.  
**Goals:** A successful retirement and second career.

## Civilian category I



**Maria Hartsfield**  
**Unit:** 7th Civil Engineer Squadron  
**Job title:** Secretary  
**H o m e t o w n :** Philippines  
**Time at Dyess:**

One year and six months  
**Time as an Air Force civilian:** Three years  
**Hobbies:** Baking, traveling, shopping, tea parties and watching my kids play sports.  
**Goals:** To be a great role model for my kids and great mentor.

## Civilian category II



**Terry Bundrant**  
**Unit:** 7th Civil Engineer Squadron  
**Job title:** Environmental engineer  
**H o m e t o w n :** Portales, N.M.  
**Time at Dyess:** Three years

**Time as an Air Force civilian:** Three years  
**Hobbies:** Photography, photomicrography, square and round dancing.  
**Goals:** Continue learning about the environment and one day become a teacher.

## Civilian category III



**Mistu Austermann**  
**Unit:** 7th Services Squadron  
**Job title:** Custodial worker leader  
**H o m e t o w n :** Okinawa, Japan

**Time at Dyess:** Twenty-four years  
**Time as an Air Force civilian:** Seventeen years  
**Hobbies:** Traveling.  
**Goals:** I have already met my goals in life so I hope to enjoy retirement.

# Civilian wins second ACC award in three years

By Senior Airman Zachary Wilson  
Dyess Public Affairs

A Dyess civilian was recently awarded her second Air Combat Command-level civilian personnel of the year award in three years.

Karen Thomas, 7th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel flight, was named ACC's top civilian personnelist in 2003. According to Lt. Col. Oran Carroll, 7th Mission Support Squadron commander, she won due to her innovative, "outside the box" thinking that kept the Dyess flying mission operational by hiring civilian firefighters to help fill positions lost when Operation Iraqi Freedom kicked off. Ms. Thomas also won the ACC award in 2001.

"This award is well-deserved," Colonel Carroll said. "She has worked hard this past year to ensure we met not only the needs of the base, but also to support war on terrorism by taking the lead in the base's initiative to use civilian firefighters to fill in for some of our troops who were deployed."

Seventeen local firefighters signed up and worked hand-in-hand with Dyess' own firefighting team to help keep the base's mission running.

"The firefighter shortage problem was brought to me when the Dyess firefighters were getting ready to deploy," Ms. Thomas said. "Without a certain number of firefighters



Airman 1st Class Robert Morris

**Karen Thomas, 7th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel flight, (left) goes over the civilian newsletter with Patti McConville at the military personnel flight. Ms. Thomas recently won an Air Combat Command-level award for the second time in three years.**

on hand, the base's flying mission was going to suffer, so I went downtown to the Abilene fire chief and proposed that if his firefighters would come work for Dyess, we would provide

them free aircraft firefighting training."

"The response was overwhelming," Ms. Thomas said. "Nearly 100 Abilene firefighters wanted to sign up, but I could only take 17 of them."

After the Dyess people came back, Ms. Thomas worked out a plan that would keep the Abilene firefighters on a 'stand-by' status in case they were ever needed again.

"The plan works kind of like the Guard or Reserve," she said. "They don't get paid until they are assigned to us once our people leave, but they are always kept on an emergency stand-by."

Other initiatives Ms. Thomas developed during the past year included instituting quarterly training for special emphasis program managers to rejuvenate base programs, enhancing training to increase the recruitment of women and minority workers for Dyess, and spearheading eight sexual harassment training classes resulting in course critiques citing the course as the best the students ever attended.

"Even though I was happy to win this award, I realize that my accomplishments would not have been possible without the extraordinary help I received from my co-workers and family who offered me all the support I needed to get the job done," Ms. Thomas said. "I couldn't have done it without them."

## Fifteen Dyess airmen receive Articles 15 for UCMJ violations

By Tech. Sgt. Teri Herrera  
Dyess Legal Office

Fifteen Dyess airmen were recently given Articles 15 for Uniform Code of Military Justice violations.

In each Article 15, the member's commander considered the offense and the punishment based on individual circumstances. These circumstances included the nature of the offense, the record of the service member, the need for good order and discipline and the effect of non-judicial punishment on the service member.

Individuals with prior misconduct usually receive more severe punishment than first-time offenders. Therefore, punishment for similar offenses may vary based on factors not listed here. When punishment is suspended, it does not take effect unless other misconduct occurs, generally within the six months following the Article 15.

Some or all of these members were subsequently administratively



discharged. Names of Article 15 violators are not released.

A staff sergeant received a suspended demotion to senior airman, fined \$912 pay for two months and given 45 days extra duty for violating Article 111 of the UCMJ -- Drunken operation of a vehicle.

A senior airman received a suspended demotion to airman and was given 30 days extra duty for violating Article 86 -- Failure to go to appointed place of duty.

A senior airman was demoted to airman first class and given a suspended reduction to airman, 45 days restriction and a reprimand for violating Article 91 -- Insubordinate conduct toward a warrant officer; noncommissioned

officer or petty officer and Article 128 -- Assault.

A senior airman was demoted to airman first class, fined \$100 for two months, given 45 days extra duty and a reprimand for violating Article 92 -- Failure to obey a lawful order.

An airman first class received a suspended demotion to airman, 30 days restriction and a reprimand for violating Article 121 -- Larceny and wrongful appropriation.

An airman first class was demoted to airman, fined \$100 for two months, placed on 30 days restriction, given 30 days extra duty and a reprimand for violating Article 86 -- Failure to go to appointed place of duty.

An airman first class received a suspended demotion to airman, fined \$500 and given a reprimand for violating Article 86 -- Failure to go to appointed place of duty ;and Article 89 -- Disrespect toward a superior commissioned officer.

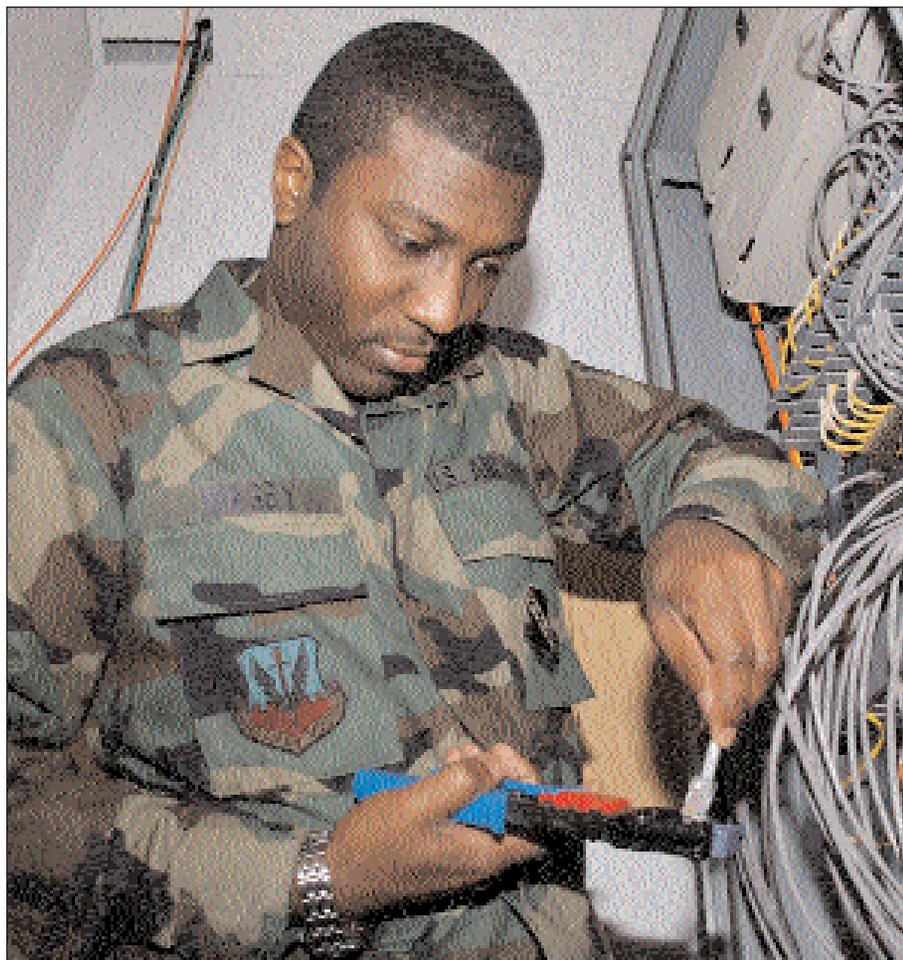
An airman first class was

demoted to airman, given 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand for violating Article 92 -- Dereliction of duty.

An airman first class received a suspended reduction to airman, 30 days restriction and a reprimand for violating Article 92 -- Failure to obey a lawful order; and Article 107 -- Making a false official statement.

An airman first class was demoted to airman, fined \$645 per month for two months (\$545 pay per month for two months suspended), given 32 days restriction and a reprimand for violating Article 111 -- Drunken operation of a vehicle.

An airman received a suspended reduction to airman basic and fined \$300 for violating Article 108 -- sale, loss, damage, destruction or wrongful disposition of military property of the United States.



Airman Aaron Walker

**TEAM DYESS**  
**Warrior of the Week**
**Airman 1st Class Darius Magby**

**Unit:** 436th Training Squadron

**Job description:** Computer Programmer Apprentice

**Time in the Air Force:** Ten months

**Time at Dyess:** Five months

**Hometown:** Atlanta

**Family:** Wife, Monica

**Job impact on the mission:** I assist in training 436th TS students by maintaining a test program utilized in class.

**Career goal:** To become a communications officer and develop the leadership skills necessary to successfully complete any professional and personal career efforts.

**Most rewarding job aspect:** By virtue of the fact that everyone has a computer, I get to interact with everyone in the squadron on a regular basis.

**What motivates your winning attitude:** My motivations are the values that were instilled in me by my father, which aren't that different from the core values that are taught by the Air Force.

**Favorite thing about Dyess:** My squadron. I would do 20 years without hesitation if I knew I could stay with the men and women of the 436th TS.

**Favorite thing about the Air Force:** The fact that the Air Force is so family oriented and stresses education.

**Favorite Air Force memory:** My graduation from technical school and any of the sporting events that are held at the squadron.

***Editor's note:** The Dyess Warrior of the Week is selected by unit squadron commanders, first sergeants or supervisors on a rotating squadron basis.*

**Local Advertisement**

# More single airmen may live off-base

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

A change in how the Air Force figures unaccompanied housing requirements will call for fewer dormitory rooms -- meaning more airmen could move off base in the future.

Under the new policy, which took effect Jan. 1, the Air Force must provide dormitory housing for unaccompanied E-1s through E-3s and E-4s with less than three years of service. Previously, the Air Force maintained dorm spaces for all unaccompanied airmen below E-5.

The policy change is designed to make the number of dorm rooms the Air Force must have available more predictable, said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

"It is easier to base a construction policy on years in service as opposed to rank within the service," Chief Murray said. "We feel this construction policy will give us the best predictability."

Basing dorm room requirements

on how many airmen are a certain rank is like "hitting a moving target," Chief Murray said. The problem lies in the wide range of time it takes for senior airmen to graduate to the noncommissioned officer grade.

"It currently takes an average of 4.6 years until our airmen sew on staff sergeant, but it used to be as high as six years," Chief Murray said. "Some take as much as seven or eight years time."

Calculating how long it takes an airman to reach E-4 is not nearly as unpredictable. Most airmen reach E-4 within four years -- some in as little as two with a below-the-zone promotion. That combination of rank, time in service and predictability makes the three-year senior airman the ideal cutoff point, Chief Murray said.

"Our new standard maintains that we will provide housing for airmen with up to three years of service," Chief Murray said. "At that point, if dormitories are not available, our policy will provide



U.S. Air Force photo

**Senior Airmen with three years time in service who live in the dorms are now allowed to move off-base and collect Basic Allowance for Housing as of Jan. 1, according to Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray**

other options for them,"

Basic Allowance for Housing rates are now set high enough that a senior airman should be able to obtain adequate housing downtown, without paying a lot of out-of-pocket costs, Chief Murray said. That trend will continue, and by 2005, BAH is expected to pay 100

percent of off-base housing costs.

"Today we believe that our young airmen have the pay and allowance to go into the downtown areas and afford good-quality homes," Chief Murray said.

For more information, call the Dyess central dorm management office at 696-4403.

Local Advertisement

## Award

Continued from Page 1

Because of his supervision and leadership the grounding of the deployed C-130 fleet was avoided. The mission capable rate increased and he enabled his unit to increase flying by 60 percent. In addition, his expertise and foresight was credited for the addition of more than \$500 million worth of parts to the mission readiness spare kit.

Although Sergeant Ripley was surprised by the honor, his co-workers weren't.

"His outstanding leadership as a senior noncommissioned officer and his technical expertise have helped to earn the 317th Airlift Group two separate Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor," said Capt. Christopher Cullen, 317th AMXS, B-flight sortie generation officer, said. "We (in the 317th AG) are very proud to see him receive the Bronze Star; it doesn't get any better than that."

While Sergeant Ripley was honored, he still emphasizes that he just did his job.

"It wasn't me who earned this award," Sergeant Ripley said. "All I did was ensure all maintenance actions were complete, but it was the people I served with who made this possible."



**Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, pins the Bronze Star on Senior Master Sgt. Frank Ripley, 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Jan. 8.**

## Salinas

Continued from Page 1

While Major Salinas was honored, he still emphasized his crew's contributions.

"This (award) only validated the team effort," Major Salinas said. "This was recognition of the team and crew's efforts in the war on terrorism."



**Maj. Carlos Salinas, 40th Airlift Squadron C-130 pilot, is awarded the Air Medal by Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff Jan. 8.**

## Spotlight

The following are the 2003 annual award winners for the 39th Airlift Squadron:

Airman -- **Senior Airman Cory Eubanks**  
 NCO -- **Staff Sgt. Steve Martin**  
 Senior NCO -- **Master Sgt. Gregg Kollbaum**  
 Company Grade Officer -- **Capt. Thad Middleton**  
 Instructor pilot -- **Capt. Marcus Lewis**  
 Instructor navigator -- **Capt. Sergio Vega**  
 Instructor flight engineer -- **Master Sgt. Gregg Kollbaum**  
 Instructor loadmaster -- **Tech. Sgt. Scott Showalter**  
 Aircraft commander -- **Capt. Amy Jordan**  
 Pilot -- **Capt. Craig Ilschner**  
 Flight engineer -- **Tech. Sgt. Michael Macaleese**  
 Loadmaster -- **Tech. Sgt. Earl Sadewasser**

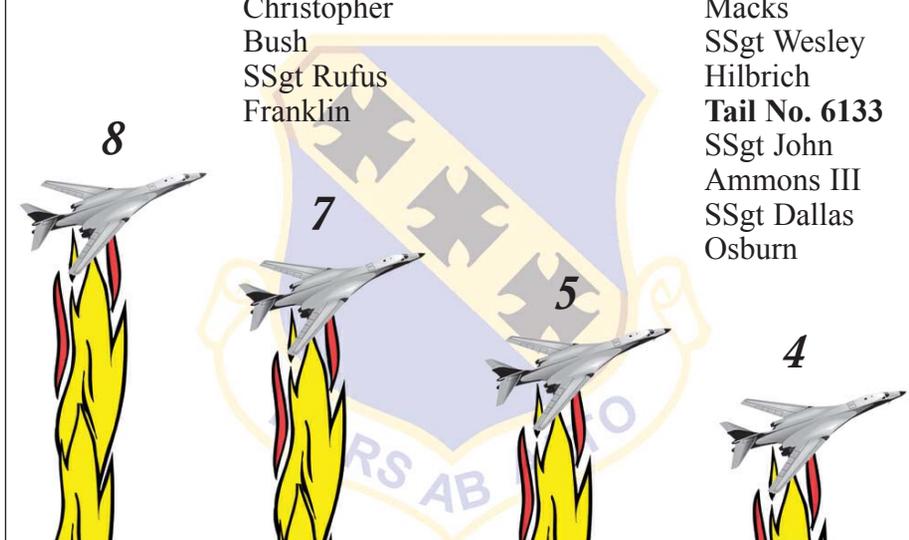
Local Advertisement

# The Race is on!

Most On-Time Takeoffs: Jan. 1-20

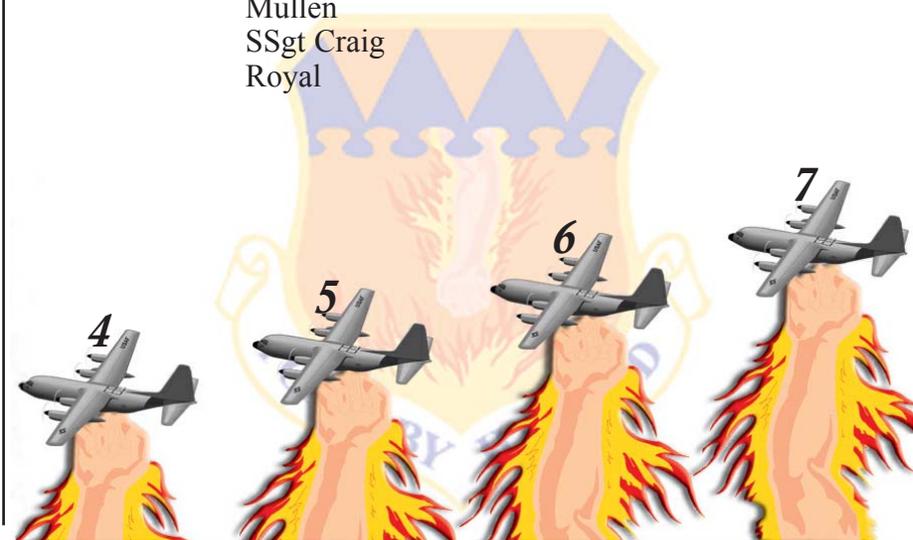
## And the leaders are... for the 7th Bomb Wing:

<b>Tail No. 5072</b> SSgt Hector Villareal SSgt Matthew Filice	<b>Tail No. 6098</b> TSgt Bradley Glenn SSgt Carlos Sanches <b>Tail No. 6108</b> SSgt Christopher Bush SSgt Rufus Franklin	<b>Tail No. 5069</b> SSgt Rodney Akers SSgt Jerry Harp	<b>Tail No. 5080</b> SSgt Jesse Roberts SSgt William Fowler <b>Tail No. 6105</b> SSgt Michael Macks SSgt Wesley Hilbrich <b>Tail No. 6133</b> SSgt John Ammons III SSgt Dallas Osburn
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## ...for the 317th Airlift Group:

<b>Tail No. 1582</b> SSgt Roger Scheibe SrA Bradley Durbin	<b>Tail No. 1597</b> SSgt Joshua Stumpff SrA Chris Pecora <b>Tail No. 1673</b> TSgt Gerald Mullen SSgt Craig Royal	<b>Tail No. 1687</b> SSgt Jeremy Miller SrA Benjamin Cram	<b>Tail No. 1674</b> SSgt Jason Field A1C Riley Smith
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Local Advertisement



# Service before self, Final choice shows love for blue suit

**By Maj. John J. Thomas**

*Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs*

Reid Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform. He served 30 years as an airman. And it seems he's still one of us.

I like to think maybe "service before self" gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base not too long ago because the war was forcing them to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first. "Always thinking of others," his daughter says.

His daughter -- her name is Andrae Harris -- is helping care for him even as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety." He almost lost his own life doing it, she says. And that pales in comparison to his courage facing his cancer.

Sergeant Wyant might say it is the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with. "I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," his daughter says.

A former commander, Col. Roger Andersen, still visits him at home. "They would both reenlist today," if they could, Andrae tells me.

Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years. "His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae says. Seems his uncle was a smart man.

She says "He caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back."

I think he's looking back now. Looking back on the people he met

as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa, in the '50s; Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and Korea in the '60s. In 1971 he was in Thailand. And he was in plenty of stateside places in between. But no assignment was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That's where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college -- well, England is where he met his wife, Doreen. To hear Andrea tell it, her mom's whole family fell in love with him. As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force.

Upon retirement from his second career he moved from Dallas to near Eglin where he fried fish and chicken for squadron picnics. And where a couple of years ago they first treated him for cancer. And it was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs

together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sergeant Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years in the Air Force. I have served with loyal members of every service. And I am off to Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq.

Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sergeant Wyant and all those he represents, like my own dad, and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day "why the service dress uniform for the burial?" he said that is what he has always worn for important events, and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I will ask to be buried in my service dress uniform, like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.

**Local Advertisement**

## Ribbon cutting

The ribbon cutting for the new car wash is 2 p.m. Thursday at the new car wash site located across the street from the gas station.

For more information, call Stephanie Kraly at 696-2936

## OTS applications due

The Officer Training School selection board application deadline is Feb. 18.

Completed applications are due to the Dyess Education Office by Wednesday. For more information, call William Phillips at 696-5545.

## Tax center

The Dyess Tax Center opens at 8 a.m. Feb. 2 for walk-ins.

After the opening, the center's hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays for appointments only; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays for appointments only; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays for walk-ins; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays for walk-ins; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays for walk-ins; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays for appointments only.

Customers coming to the tax center need to have: military ID cards,

social security cards for all individuals claimed on the return, all copies of W-2s, a checkbook if filing electronically and seeking a refund through direct deposit, interest statements, childcare information and the Adjusted Gross Income from last years tax return (this can be found on line 4 of the 1040EZ, line 19 of the 1040A, or line 33 of the 1040).

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sarah Countryman at 696-2232.

## OSC Dinner Theatre

The Officers' Spouses Club will host a dinner theater at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5th at The Heritage Club.

A performance of "The Promise" will be put on by the Abilene Repertory Theatre.

The cost is \$15 for Dyess club members and \$17 for non-members. Reservations are required by Feb. 2.

For more information, call Nessie Norris at 698-5617.

## Construction

Privately owned vehicles and government owned vehicles not on

business related to construction are not allowed in any of the construction zones on base without prior clearance. This includes crossing the road to access a parking lot.

These precautions are made to ensure everyone's safety.

For questions, call Lt. Col. Darren Daniels at 696-2250.

## Dyess pictures

Dyess members can access pictures of base events online at <https://www.mil.dyess.af.mil/events.htm> to see pictures of Dyess activities.

The pictures are intended for internal use only and are prohibited from being released to outside media.

For more information, call Public Affairs at 696-2862.

## Safety office moves

The 7th Bomb Wing Safety Office has relocated. They are now located on the second floor of Bldg. 9203, 597 Louisiana Loop.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Dion Baker at 696-2676.

## PALACE Envoy position

The military personnel flight is seeking a captain to become the operations officer for the Bilateral Affairs Office of the Office of Defense Cooperation in Georgia, Asia. Nominees should have a high-level of interpersonal skill, maturity and flexibility. Officers must also meet all physical and mental standards of the Air Force. The tour length is 179 days. Any active-duty, Guard or Reserve captain interested must apply by March 14.

For more information, call Ginny Basl at DSN 314-480-8944 or email at [virginia.basl@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:virginia.basl@ramstein.af.mil).

## Loadmaster gathering

The Professional Loadmaster Association's 2004 Gathering of Loadmasters is May 23-27 at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, in Atlantic City, N.J.

All loadmasters are invited.

For more information, visit [www.loadmasters.com](http://www.loadmasters.com) or contact J.P. Salisbury at (609) 893-0363, or Tom Kenny at (609) 754-4403, [thomas.kenny@mcguire.af.mil](mailto:thomas.kenny@mcguire.af.mil)

**Local Advertisement**

# Three Dyess airmen get STEP promoted

By Airman James Kang  
Dyess Public Affairs

Three Dyess NCOs were presented with a new set of stripes by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and 7th Bomb Wing commander Col. Jonathan George, during an Airman's Call Jan. 8.

Master Sgt. Nicolas Nieves, 7th BW inspector general's office, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bush, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Carter, 7th BW command post flight chief, were promoted under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers in front of fellow Dyess airmen and officers at the 3-bay hangar.

According to Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Promotion Fitness Examination, the STEP program, established in 1980, is designed to meet the unique circumstances that, in the commander's judgment, clearly warrant promotion.

The three Dyess airmen that added stripes were unaware that they were submitted for the STEP promotion.

"It came as a complete surprise," said Sergeant Nieves, the NCO in-charge of Wing Inspections. "I'm very proud to know that my superiors believe in me."

Sergeants Carter and Bush agreed, remarking in shock.

"Judging by the comments I have received from fellow colleagues who saw me on stage, it was evident that it was a surprise for me," said Sergeant Carter.

Among his accomplishments, Sergeant Nieves flawlessly launched 10 of 10 sorties during Operation Enduring Freedom, providing the theater commander with unparalleled air power while leading his team to achieve a 100-percent weapons release rate and a 100-percent mission-capable rate during his deployment.

Some of his additional accomplishments included being recognized as the 9th Bomb Squadron Crew Chief of the Year in 1998, and being named the Distinguished Graduate at the NCO Academy.

"I don't think it's about key accomplishments, but rather my approach to doing things," said Sergeant Nieves. "I try to give 110 percent in all tasks, and I try to be proactive -- not reactive -- whenever possible."

Colleagues and supervisors of Sergeant Bush praised him for his knowledge, skills, and service before self.

His actions helped contain a 2,500-gallon fuel spill, minimizing fire hazard and avoided an environmental disaster.

He has also won the Logistics Professional of the Year award and



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

**Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bush, 7th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief is greeted by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen John P. Jumper at an Airman's Call Jan. 8, during a Stripes for Exceptional Performers ceremony.**

was a key player in the unit's completion of 1,048 sorties and 4,275 flying hours.

Among his many accomplishments, Sergeant Carter won numerous Airman and NCO of the Quarter awards and annual awards. He was also recognized as the United States Air Force in Europe Outstanding Airman of the Year in 1997. He was

named the best command post controller for Air Mobility Command and implemented a new command post flight system.

"I am very proud of being STEP promoted," said Sergeant Carter. "It's just something extra that makes me feel all the hard work I have done was well worth all the time and energy put in."



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

**Master Sgt. Nicolas Nieves, 7th BW inspector general's office, adds additional stripes to his arms in a STEP promotion Jan. 8.**



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

**Tech. Sgt. Kevin Carter, 7th BW command post flight chief, was promoted earlier than scheduled under the STEP program.**

# Regional author visits Dyess



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

San Angelo author Elmer Kelton speaks to an audience at the Dyess Library Jan. 14 about the many Western novels he has written during his career.

**By Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds**  
*Dyess Public Affairs*

A local author of 41 Western novels participated in a discussion at the Dyess Library Jan. 14.

Elmer Kelton, a San Angelo resident, visited the library as part of an ongoing author day series where mostly local authors visit Dyess and engage in book readings and discussions about their novels and their careers as an author.

The program has been going on for two years with an author coming to Dyess every five months on average. This was Mr. Kelton's second visit in as many years.

During his visit to Dyess, Mr. Kelton spoke about his career, writing style, and answered questions about his books and their subject matter.

"It was great to be able to come to Dyess," Mr. Kelton said. "I rarely get a chance to visit a military base and it's a great experience. As always, it was a very pleasant session with everyone I was able to meet being very nice."

This is a great opportunity for

Dyess because it allows our military community the chance to meet an author they might not otherwise meet, said Calvin Earthly, Dyess Library lead technician.

"This experience also gives us the opportunity to show other potential visiting authors that Dyess would be a good place to come," Mr. Earthly said.

Mr. Kelton was born in Crane, Texas and attended the University of Texas at Austin where he earned his bachelor's degree in journalism.

Three of his novels have appeared in Reader's Digest Condensed Books.

Mr. Kelton's accomplishments include awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Western Writers of America, the Texas Institute of Letters, the Western Literature Association and the Larry McMurtry Center for Arts and Humanities at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

In 1997, the Texas Legislature proclaimed May 28, 1997 as Elmer Kelton Day. In addition, he has also received honorary doctorates from Hardin-Simmons University and Texas Tech University.



Senior Airman Ryan Summers

1st Lt. William Beuschel, 7th Operations Support Squadron (left) and Lt. Col. Terri Ford, 7th Services Squadron commander, talk to Mr. Kelton about the inspiration for his novels.

## December Memphis Belle Award recipients

*Editor's Note: The Memphis Belle Award is a monthly wing safety award that recognizes all aircrew members who successfully resolve an in-flight or ground aircraft emergency in the course of daily flight activity.*

### Electrical malfunction

**Dec. 1**

Maj. Patrick Klinger, pilot  
1st Lt. Andy Dinuzzo, co-pilot  
Capt. Mike Miller, offensive systems officer

1st Lt. Michael Stratton, defensive systems officer

### Bleed air overheat

**Dec. 1**

Lt. Col. Rick Carver, pilot  
1st Lt. Michael Edmonston, co-pilot

2nd Lt. Nathan Barrett, OSO  
Maj. Jeff Jordan, DSO

### Flight control malfunction

**Dec. 2**

Maj. Eric Reinhard, pilot  
Capt. Tim Bolen, co-pilot  
1st Lt. Tim Gavin, OSO  
Lt. Col. Steven Reeves, DSO

### Hung weapon

**Dec. 8**

Capt. Craig Prichard, pilot  
Capt. Brandon Miller, co-pilot  
Capt. Steve Mathis, OSO  
Capt. Mark Wass, DSO

### Flight control malfunction

**Dec. 16**

Capt. Charles Bergeron, pilot  
Capt. Paul Davis, co-pilot  
1st Lt. Susan Adamson, OSO  
Capt. Brian Ferrari, DSO

# Thunderbirds crash report out

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- Pilot error caused a U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds F-16 aircraft to crash shortly after takeoff at an airshow Sept. 14 at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The pilot ejected just before the aircraft impacted the ground.

According to the accident investigation board report released today, the pilot misinterpreted the altitude required to complete the "Split S" maneuver. He made his calculation based on an incorrect mean-sea-level altitude of the airfield. The pilot incorrectly climbed to 1,670 feet above ground level instead of 2,500 feet before initiating the pull down to the Split S maneuver.

When he realized something was wrong, the pilot put maximum back stick pressure and rolled slightly left to ensure the aircraft would impact away from the crowd should he have to eject. He ejected when the aircraft was 140 feet above ground -- just eight-tenths of a second prior to impact. He sustained only minor injuries from the ejection. There was no other damage to military or civilian property.

The aircraft, valued at about \$20.4 million, was destroyed.

Also, the board determined other factors substantially contributed to creating the opportunity for the error including the requirement for demonstration pilots to convert mean sea level and above ground level altitudes and performing a maneuver with a limited margin of error.



**Do your part, be water smart!**

Local Advertisement



# The BIG Screen

The Dyess Theater is located next to the main exchange. Patrons must have a valid identification card but may sponsor guests. Unless otherwise noted, matinee movies begin at 2 p.m., while evening movies start at 7 p.m. Admission for adults is \$2, children 6-12 years old is 99 cents, and children ages 6 and younger are admitted free. G-rated movies are 99 cents for kids ages 2-12.

## Friday evening

**The Last Samurai** -- Tom Cruise -- A 19th century American military officer (Tom Cruise) travels to Japan to help organize and teach the emperor's troops during a time of conflict on the island.

Rated R (*strong violence, battle sequences*)

## Saturday matinee

**Stuck On You** -- Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear -- Bob (Matt Damon) and

Walt (Greg Kinnear) are conjoined twins, one of whom has dreams of making it big in Hollywood. After traveling to California, they get cast in a television series with Cher, which, with the addition of the twins, turns the show into an instant hit.

Rated PG-13 (*crude sexual humor, language*)

## Saturday evening

**The Last Samurai**

## Sunday matinee

**The Haunted Mansion** -- Eddie Murphy -- Jim Evers (Eddie Murphy) is a real estate agent who hopes to make a deal to acquire the Gracey mansion -- not knowing that the place is haunted by ghosts. The ghosts won't leave until their unfinished business is completed and it's up to Jim to break the curse.

Rated PG (*frightening images, thematic elements and language*)

## Social Hour

The Heritage Club and Hangar Center host a social hour every Friday night for club members.

Complimentary snacks and bar bingo are available.

For more information, call 696-2405.

## Tickets

The information, tickets and travel office now has Dallas Stars and San Antonio Spurs tickets available.

Special rates are now being offered for cruises. Dates and prices may vary.

For more information, call 696-5207.

## Junior members

The Heritage Club now has junior memberships available.

Open to children 10 and younger. It features a brunch on the second and last Sunday of each month.

For more information, call 696-2405.

## Super Bowl Party

The Hangar Center will host a Super Bowl XXXVIII party Feb. 1.

The party will feature prizes given each quarter, a mini buffet and drink specials.

The party is open to all ranks. Admission is \$7. Club members get in free.

For more information, call 696-4305.

## Paintball

Outdoor recreation is now taking reservations for use of the paintball field for unit stress buster challenges for groups of 10 or more.

The field is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

Reservations must be made before 5 p.m.

For more information, call 696-2402.

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