

FLYER

Texas Air National Guard



Welcome home Defenders

136 SFS return home from desert

Who's the 2015 best warrior

Two airmen welcome babies on same date

Vietnam war refugee, career guardsman honors Texas, America

Stories in this issue...read on.

Commander's **Comments**

Welcome to February UTA



Col. George W. Holt, Jr.
136 AW Commander

I don't like starting off the newsletter with something painful, but I want to make sure our WING Family understands the impact suicide has on all of us. It is a painful loss individually and as a Wing. A loss we have to deal with. As you all should know already, we lost Major Marlette Loughmiller, our MEO officer, to suicide. She was a good person with a heart for making the Wing a better place. I was shocked since she worked directly for me as the vice and we had been good Wingmen going through some tough situations together. Situations that we believed were in the past and behind her.

As we deal with the pain and self-questioning that often occurs following a traumatic loss, it is important we don't lose touch with the fact we can never truly know why. We can only recommit ourselves to looking out for each other. We can concentrate on a purposeful connection with those around us. We can prove to those around us that strength is not ignoring a problem, but asking for help when we are overwhelmed. There is no loss that is acceptable and

the loss of our friend will be with us forever.

Join with me in making a commitment to not only be resilient, but also strong enough to ask for help.

We have made this drill a focus on training our folks on how to deal with critical incident stress. We are training 30 Critical Incident Stress Management team members on Friday, Feb. 27, to facilitate sessions over drill to talk about the loss and how we move forward. Your commanders are making it a priority

I want to say a special thanks to the Base for joining with us and providing support. The Reserves and Navy both stepped up to be there for us, and are true partners in helping relieve some of the stress from this loss. Our WDPH Ms. Lynn and the Chaplain staff were amazing and have been out and about just to talk. I don't know where we would be without people who have such a heart for our Airmen. Even as we walk through this loss, know that we are still blessed.

I can't predict how anyone will respond to this message. I don't know what you are going through, BUT I do know what I am going through. The hurt and sadness only gets lighter with time and talking. I pray that the Wing can find some comfort in knowing that there are people here who care.

There is nothing more important for our readiness than our health and well-being. We have to be Strong: mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Take time to attend a CISM event this drill. Look for signs of distress in the Airmen around you. Give someone who needs it... a hug or pat on the back. We can and will get through this. Together.



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Cover Photo by
Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs

Welcome home **Defenders**

136 SFS returns home from desert

by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JRB, Texas--After spending more than seven months deployed in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, 13 airmen from the 136th Security Forces Squadron, Texas Air National Guard returned home to the awaiting arms of loved ones here, Jan. 27.

“It (deployment) is a once in a lifetime experience. I’m honored to serve my country in this capacity,” said Senior Airman Brady Pitzer, of Amarillo, Texas and one of the younger team member who experienced his first overseas deployment. “I had several duties there to include guarding the flight line and foot patrols. I learned a lot.”

Pitzer’s duties included guarding the entry control points and controlling the flow of all vehicles entering and exiting the base, one of the more dangerous duties because threats can arise with only seconds to react. Now that he’s back, he plans on surprising his parents in Amarillo with his arrival.

Senior Airman Ryan Clark from San Antonio, Texas, is the oldest Airman on the team and among those who deployed for the first time. “We had really good leadership,” said Clark. “We bonded and developed new and lifelong friends from all over the Air Force.”

Security Forces Airmen (Defenders) are the security teams who actively guard



Airmen of the 136th Security Forces Squadron arrive at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas, Jan. 27, 2015, after spending more than seven months away from loved ones in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The airmen defended the base at their deployed location. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/released)

the base 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They protect and defend the base from any and all threats. Fortunately the team did not encounter trouble during their tour of duty and the few threats they did were nothing the defenders could not deter or eliminate.

“The deployment was amazing,” said Senior Airman Sugeny Powe, of Fort Worth, Texas, a traditional Guardsman deployed for the first time and the only female on the team. “I was able to achieve all the goals I set for myself and I learned a lot.”

Powe was able to complete her Airman Leadership course during her down time, which qualifies her for promotion to Staff Sgt.

Our service members are your teachers, doctors, fire fighters, police officers and professionals. They bring those same skills to the Air National Guard to serve their community, state, and nation. The Airmen come from all areas of Texas, some full time, but most traditional Guardsmen maintain full-time careers and have families.

The Airmen were asked if they want to deploy again, Pitzer said, “I definitely would. I want to travel and see the world.”



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Who's the **best warrior**

Army and Air National Guard compete at the 2015 BWC

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John Williams, 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, jumps over the logs obstacle during the 2015 Best Warrior competition at Camp Swift, Texas, Feb. 7, 2015. The BWC promotes camaraderie and esprit de corps among the Army and Air National Guard while testing their physical fitness, knowledge and skills in combat tactics and combat first-aid. (Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Charles Hatton/released)

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

BASTROP, Texas—A total of 35 competitors, from Air and Army National Guard units statewide entered this year's Texas Military Forces Competition all vying to be the "best of the best".

"The Best Warrior Competition is a big deal for Texas and the Texas Military Forces," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Weedon, TXMF senior enlisted adviser. "It is one of the biggest joint events we have involving 0soldiers and airmen. This event allows the soldier and airman to compete with each other in both physical and mental challenges."

The competition tests the knowledge and skills of the competitors in seven

events, spanning three days. The first day kicked off with an essay, testing aptitude, writing abilities and critical thinking skills to see how well the soldiers and the airmen express their thoughts. Following the writing skills, the competitors met with a panel of senior enlisted leaders who barraged them with a series of questions pertaining to their military tasks.

"We are from the same Texas Military Forces," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin O'Gorman, state command chief for the Texas Air National Guard. "When we deploy in a joint environment, we work together side-by-side and we need to foster that early on. This competition breeds camaraderie and jointness, even though soldiers and airmen do things differently."

Day two started with a twilight land-navigation course at 5 a.m. and finished after daybreak. Land navigation tests the competitors skills in map reading and compass headings – plotting the points to discover hidden flags throughout the course.

Shortly after completing land naviga-

tion, the competitors proceeded to the weapons-qualification range, then on to the 11 Army warrior task lanes. Both Army and Air Force participants demonstrated their ability to disassemble and reassemble weapons ranging from a 9 mm pistol to an M2 machine gun, as well as testing in combat-first-aid techniques.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Steven Hein, 136th Security Forces Squadron, and member of the Richardson Police Department, finished first during the land navigation course, coming in at 1 hour and 29 minutes, finding three of four flags.



WARRIOR continued on page 5



“It’s been a privilege to come out here and contend with the best,” said Hein. “It’s definitely good to come out here to compete and learn from the other guys like the Army and other guys in the tactical control party.”

Many of the competitors felt that the last day of the competition was the most challenging and exhausting. It included the mile-long obstacle course, containing nine stations with rigorous calisthenics in between obstacles, a six-mile ruck march and finished with three mystery events. The total course spanned eight miles as each competitor attempted to conquer each event with a go or no-go



while carrying a 35-pound ruck sack on their back.

“The BWC is tougher than all the races I’ve competed in,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Candice Wade, a veteran competitor in the Warrior Dash, Tough Mudder and Spartan Races. “The Best Warrior Competition is a much higher level ... dealing with a land navigation course, eight types of weapons, combat casualty care, an obstacle course, ruck march and various physical events. I can say that this is absolutely the most difficult thing I’ve ever done.”

Among the spectators present was Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas, and Maj. Gen. Edmundo Villarroel Geissbuhler, Chilean army liaison officer, both here to observe the competing guardsmen.

“There are two competitions going on here,” said Nichols. “One is the competition between Army and Air Force. The other is between the soldiers so we can send forth the best soldier in a national competition and be the best in the U.S. Army. This is a big deal to us.”

Geissbuhler strolled through the courses, closely observing each station, cheering on the soldiers and airmen racing through the obstacles.

“We have a lot of contact with the Texas Military Forces, both in the Air Force and Army,” said Geissbuhler. “This state partnership began in 2008 and there are a lot of activities we do together. I received an invitation to come here today and I’m very glad to be here.”

Texas and Chile are part of the State Partnership Program, using military-to-military relationships between the U.S. and Chile to increase military capabilities and interoperability.

When asked if the Chileans have this type of competition among their military forces, Geissbuhler said, “We do have this competition in Chile, it is part of our training. We have been approved to send four competitors here to the BWC next year and compete among the TXME. We will be sending two soldiers and two airmen and hope to do well.”

By the end of the three-day event, the competitors seemed both mentally and physically exhausted.

“I’m here to do my best, not just as a woman, but as a soldier,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Wendy Farris, 149th Aviation Battalion, one of the four female competitors. “This was really exciting. I’ve learned a lot and grown in the process. I’m devising my plan for next year’s competition.”

There were 22 Army and 13 Air Force competitors, coming from all parts of Texas. Most of the competing guardsmen were drill status guardsmen. They also serve Texas as police officers, firefighters, physical strength trainers and other professionals.

The overall winners for the competition will be announced at an award ceremony April 11, 2015.



Around the **Wing**



Promotion
**Lt. Col.
Glen Sutton**
When: Jan. 24, 2015
136th Comptroller Flight
Commander



Retirement
**Chief Master Sgt.
Jennifer Praytor**
When: Jan. 25, 2015
136th Force Support Squadron
Superintendent



Promotion
**Major
Adam Walker**
When: Feb. 8, 2015
136th Airlift Wing/IG
Director of Inspections

If you have an announcement please submit to
136AW.PA@ang.af.mil

Two Airmen **welcome** Babies on same date

by 1st Lt. Danielle Devoto
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH, Texas— Two Airmen from the 136th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) here both welcomed new babies to their families Jan. 26, 2015, in adjoining rooms at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center.

When Tech Sgt. Stephen Agar found out that his wife was pregnant, one of the first people he shared the news with was fellow Guardsmen, Tech Sgt. Garrett Storm.

“I wanted to keep it hush-hush until we made it though the first trimester,” said Agar. “I texted my closest friends. I texted him.”

“Well that makes two of us because Shanna’s expecting,” Storm said in his surprising response.

Agar asked the Storm’s for a recommendation for a doctor. Based off of their suggestion, the Agar’s chose the same obstetrician. This meant that both babies would be delivered in the same hospital.

However, it wasn’t until after their first appointment that both families realized that they had the same due date. “It makes it that much more special that we get to share it with that family,” said Agar.

To keep things interesting, Agar and Storm decided to make a bet to see whose daughter would be the oldest.

Storm and Agar have deployed together twice with the SFS. These two men developed a close friendship from their time serving in the Guard.

“When you spend that much time with somebody, that’s not just Sgt. Storm, that’s Garrett W. Storm,” said



Agar. “I know his address. I know his wife. I’ve seen him with his two children. I mean I know everything about that kid.”

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Agar received a text from Storm. “Shanna and I are in Mansfield Methodist medical center in room 4. I’ve already requested room 3 for the Agar’s,” said Storm’s message.

“You see a lot of faces come and go. You progress in ranks with certain people,” said Agar while reflecting on his friendship with Storm. “There’s a few other individuals that are in that select few that I would go overseas with anytime and he’s definitely one of them.”

Storm’s wife, Staff Sgt. Shanna Storm, is also a member of the 136th Airlift Wing, and serves in the Medical Group.



MWR HAPPENINGS AT NAS FORT WORTH JRB:

Financial Aid Night

College financial aid specialists on hand to help answer questions about FAFSA, scholarships available to military dependents, Post 911 and GI Montgomery Bill benefits and entitlements.

Thursday - Feb. 26 at 6 - 8 PM
Contact the Mike Arnett, school liaison officer for more information (817)782-1883

Inflatable Boxing Competition

Need to let off steam? Friday, Feb. 27, 2015. Sign up at the Fitness Center. Event starting at 1200. All Active Duty and Reservist are free, Dependents/DOD \$5. For more information call (817)782-7770

School Age Spring Break Camp

Action Zone is now open for school age child care during Spring Break. for more information call (817)782-7520.

Weekly rates based on rank.
March 9-13, 2015
6 AM to 6 PM

COSMIC Rock-N-Bowl

Friday & Saturday nights, 8-10 PM. \$10 per person - two hours of bowling.

CDC gives parents a break

Every 1st Saturday from 6:30 am - 5:30 PM
Every 3rd Wednesday from 6:00 PM - 10 PM
For children ages 6 weeks to 13 yrs with valid sponsors.
For more information call (817) 782-7520

ITT hours of operation

Spring Break hours of operation
Monday, March 9 - Saturday, March 14
9 AM - 5 PM

Vietnam war refugee

Career Guardsman honors Texas, America

by 2nd Lt. Phil Fountain
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas -- A career guardsman was surrounded by friends and family as he capped off a 27-year military career by paying tribute to Texas and the United States, his adopted home, during a retirement ceremony here, Nov. 23, 2014.

Air Force Lt. Col. Don Nguyen, assistant director of operations for the 273rd Information Operations Squadron (IOS), Texas Air National Guard, retired from military service after lifting himself up from unlikely circumstances - a child refugee of the Vietnam War.

In the late 1970s, Nguyen's family took to the high seas to escape Vietnam's Communist regime, which took control of that nation in 1975.

"Our family and other families barely survived the five days lost at sea as 'boat people refugees,'" Nguyen said. "We experienced starvation, dehydration, turbulent weather, life and death situations, and (were) without fuel - drifting until rescued by Malaysia's international humanitarian effort."

Following the ordeal, Nguyen's family was initially sheltered in Malaysia, he said, and was then sponsored to come to the United States.

"I truly understand the genuine meaning of receiving freedom and the opportunity that our magnificent nation has provided to me, my family and many others," Nguyen said. "I want to remind other Americans that you should do your very best with the freedom, opportunity, and always remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom."

"I was just 10 years old when we immigrated to America, in November 1979," Nguyen said. "I grew up in Houston, Texas and quickly learned the English language, and how to become a Texan and an American."

Army Col. Suzanne D. Adkinson, com-

mander of the Texas Military Forces Joint Counterdrug Task Force, presided over the ceremony. In addition to his traditional, part-time role with the 273rd IOS, Nguyen was assigned to the Joint Counterdrug Task Force, at a location in El Paso.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore," Adkinson said, quoting the poem placed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. "Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift up my lamp beside the golden door!"



U.S. Army Col. Suzanne D. Adkinson, commander of the Texas Military Forces Joint Counterdrug Task Force, presents a medal to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Don Nguyen, assistant director of operations for the 273rd Information Operations Squadron (IOS), Texas Air National Guard, during his retirement ceremony in San Antonio, Nov. 23, 2014. Nguyen retired after 27 years of military service, including time with the Texas Army and Air National Guards. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric L. Wilson / Released)

"You guys wanted to breath free," she said, "and here you are."

In 1987, Nguyen enlisted in the U.S. Army, and later served as a signal officer in the Texas Army National Guard before transferring to the Texas Air National Guard in 2002, when he became a U.S. Air Force cyber-communications officer.

"During my service with the U.S. Army," Nguyen said, "I was naturalized and received my U.S. citizenship."

Throughout his life and military career,

Nguyen has sought ways to give back. This included making the most of his military service and volunteering with youth programs in his community.

He also volunteered and deployed in support of numerous state and federal missions.

During the ceremony, Nguyen was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, and the accompanying state award, the Texas Outstanding Service Medal.

Nguyen's service includes participation in state preparedness and response efforts related to Hurricanes Rita, Dean, Gustav, Dolly and Ike, which impacted Texas during the late 2000s, according to the medal citation. He led support teams for planning and engineering with the 254th Combat Communications Group, based in Grand Prairie, in north Texas, and deployed "six emergency command and control communications and supply distribution points" during the state's response to the hurricanes.

He also supported the state's Operation Lone Star (OLS) on three occasions, by "providing communications infrastructure support." OLS is an interagency, state mission, led by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and has provided annual humanitarian medical and dental services in the Rio Grande Valley since 1999.

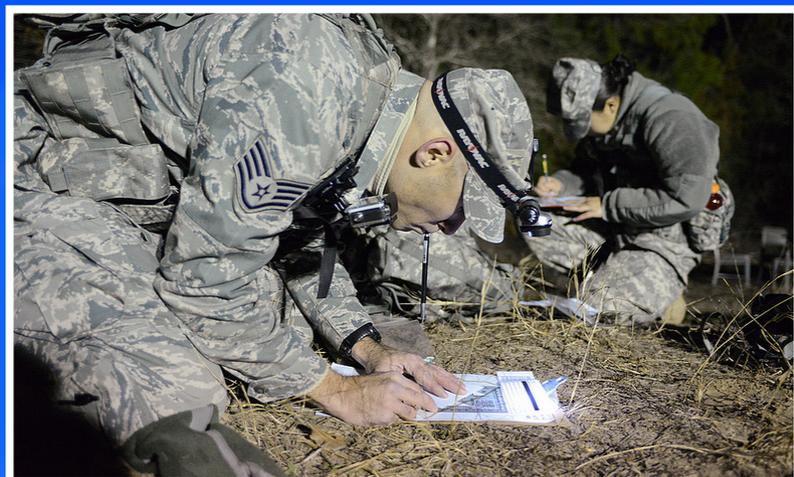
Additionally, Nguyen answered his nation's call and deployed numerous times in support of federal combat operations abroad, including the Gulf War, in 1991, and twice for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

During his OIF deployments, Nguyen served as an operations flight commander leading more than 100 people, according to the medal citation. He provided "expeditionary combat communications and air traffic control landing systems support to U.S. Central Command while subject to over 100 indirect fire attacks."

Nguyen tied his success to leaving his home of birth and immigrating to America.

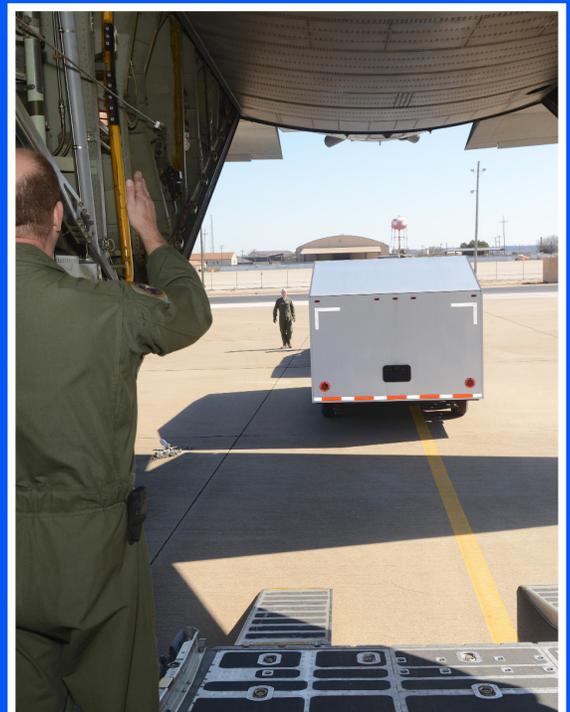
THE HAPPENING

January-February begins the new year with promotions and farewells. Lt. Col. Glen Sutton received his promotion and Chief Praytor's retirement ceremony was memorable. Our Security Forces team came home after spending more than seven months overseas, serving with honor. The 2015 Best Warrior Competition challenged our airmen to strive for their best and battle it out with the Army National Guard. This is our Guard family and we are all proud of them. (Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton, Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Reed, Staff Sgt. Tamara Dabney and Airman 1st Class Cody Witsaman)



The Work Place

Airmen from the Wing are everywhere. Their work place ... wherever they show up to do what they do best, they represent the Texas Air National Guard with pride. (Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton, Tech. Sgt. Vanessa Reed and Airman Cody Witsaman)



A **funny** thing happened While I was deployed

Commentary by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Life takes us through many experiences... some difficult times, some memorable moments and some not worth remembering. But for the most part life teaches us lessons we can never forget.

In 2005 I was deployed to somewhere in Southwest Asia (I cannot disclose the location). I was the lead photographer for the wing. I had various photo assignments from alert photography to photographing commander's call where numerous citations were awarded to airmen.

Shortly after arriving at my new location I was tasked to photograph commander's call. I was still new and getting used to their processes; the way they do things. Every month a commander's call is scheduled to award departing Airmen medals, promotions and recognition. Photographing these ceremonies wasn't complicated. The commander and the recipient stand on stage, face the camera and I photograph the moment.

Murphy's Law states that anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. This was no exception... my digital camera malfunctioned in the middle of commander's call while I was photographing Airmen receiving their awards. I had no back-up camera. The second photographer was called out to do an alert photo.

I was going into panic mode.

I quickly assessed the situation

and tried every troubleshooting technique I could think of in the short time that I had. The commander now stood in the center stage with the recipient holding his plaque, waiting for me to snap the photo...

What do I do? I felt as though my world had come to an end. Having a camera malfunction in the middle of a photo shoot is like being in a fire fight when your weapon jams, with the enemy upon you.

"Click," the sound came from my throat as I pretended to take the photo and pressed the flash test but-

"Murphy's Law states that anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

ton to set off the flash. This signaled the commander the photo has been taken. For the next five photographs I repeated the motion, "click,"... flash firing... and the next one prepares for their turn to be photographed.

Beads of sweat rolled down my forehead as I nervously pretended to photograph the awardees. Luckily there were others in the audience taking photographs. I went through the motion five times and each time I would look around to see if anyone noticed my fiasco. A sigh of relief came when the second photographer

finally showed up. I motioned him to take over.

The following month, commander's call was scheduled as usual, outdoors, on a stage and with the entire wing present. Hours before commander's call I found out that I would be receiving the 'Poop Award', an award given for a 'faux pas' during an event.

I was discovered!

I was devastated, but I knew I had to have a comeback. I quickly prepared my plan... to bring at least five backup cameras, a backup for each backup. I also printed a sketch of the commander standing on stage and placed it on a clipboard.

The final award given at commander's call was the 'Poop Award'. I had to act surprised and in good humor. The commander called my supervisor and I up on stage so that I may receive the dishonorable distinction. But before he handed me the award he had to explain why I was the recipient of such a stinky prize.

"As you know Senior Master Sgt. Gilbert is one of our base photographers. She is everywhere documenting the events around base to include commander's call," said the colonel. "She does a great job telling our Airmen's story... except for this one time, and that is why she is receiving this stinky honor."

As I looked at the crowd, most of them looked perplexed except for

DEPLOYED continued on page 12

The Carswell Field
FLYER

the few who sit in the front row. They had smirks on their faces... whispering, “we got ya!”

“Last month during commander’s call,” continued the colonel, “she photographed the event as usual, but this time her camera malfunctioned. I watched her fumble with her camera trying to get the problem fixed. She looked right up at me with this terrified look. But the next thing I heard was a, “click!” and the flash setting off.”

I grit my teeth and forced a smile as the crowd laughed and jeered at the same time. I had to eat humble

pie in front of all my peers. But I held my head up and took the award.

“Sir,” I rebutted, “you may catch me once without backup, but you won’t catch me twice unprepared,” as I pulled out my backup cameras one after the other, “backup,” placing the camera strap around my neck... “after backup,” another one around my neck... “after backup...” now with all five camera straps around my neck.

I proceeded to grab the clipboard with the blank side up and pretended to draw with a pencil at hand, “and if all else fails...” I removed the piece of paper and showed the crowd what I

had pretended to draw, “I could use the ‘ol paper and pencil to draw you.”

The crowd laughed and jeered once again. They applauded... I had a sigh of relief. It was a great come back.

The colonel laughed and said, “a funny thing happened while I was deployed... click!” as the photographer snapped the moment in time.

I learned a valuable lesson that day: take your challenges in stride and always have a great come back. Though we may think our world is ending, there is always a solution, for this too shall pass.



U.S. Air Force Col. James Brackett, commander, 380th Air Expeditionary Group, awards U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, photographer the ‘Poop Award’, a traditional award given to those who had a ‘faux pas’ occur during a major event at this deployed location in CENTCOM, April 2005. Gilbert’s camera malfunctioned during a photo shoot at commander’s call with no back up on hand. (USAF courtesy photo)

The 136th Airlift Wing is on Facebook!!

Visit the link below to “like” us...You don’t even have to “friend” us to receive Wing updates for community events, discount tickets, free items such as sporting events, giveaways, special events, and photos of 136 AW Airmen in action. Stay tuned for inclement weather base closure information—now on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook/136AW>

Wing Safety Snip-Its

How to be prepared for storm season

by Senior Master Sgt. Donald Seymore
136 AW Wing Safety Office

The DFW Metroplex is located in the part of Texas known as “Tornado Alley.” Severe weather can occur anytime but the spring and summer months are when thunderstorms can fire up in a heartbeat. The best advice is to conduct tornado drills at home just like the schools do routinely. Be prepared. Be safe.

Where is Tornado Alley? Tornado Alley is a term used by meteorologists and media members referring to the part of the United States where tornadoes occur more frequently. More tornadoes are reported in Texas than any other state. The majority of the state is included in Tornado Alley--from south/central Texas up through the Panhandle, the North Texas Metroplex, up into Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Kansas and Oklahoma report the second and third largest numbers of tornadoes in the United States.

Terminology: Watches, Warnings

A Tornado Watch: Means conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. It's intended to alert people in a particular area to pay attention to the weather.

A Tornado Warning: Means that storm spotters have seen a tornado or that Doppler radar has reported some circular rotation indicating that the storm may spawn a tornado. You should take safety precautions when a warning is given on TV, radio or if you hear

warning sirens.

What to Do in a Tornado Warning:
It's a good idea to have a safety plan in place and conduct tornado drills in your home, school or workplace. If a Tornado Warning is given, seek shelter immediately

At home: If you don't have a basement or storm room, take shelter in an interior room or closet. Stay away from windows. Take a mattress, blankets or pillows to protect your head. Do not open any windows.

In a trailer house/mobile home: Leave immediately. Mobile homes are dangerous even if they are tied down. Some parks have a designated area. If not, take shelter in a low lying area if possible away from your home and trees. Lie down and protect your head.

At school: Follow tornado drills that your school practices. Don't panic. Try to remain calm.

What to Do if You're In a Car or Outside

Outside: Try to find shelter in a building or lie face down on the ground covering your head.

In a car: Cars are dangerous during tornadoes. Leave the car and find a low-lying area. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges as they are very dangerous.

What Not to Do During Tornadoes

Don't chase tornadoes in your car. Leave that to the professional storm chasers.

Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car.

Don't open windows. If you heard you were supposed to open them, that's no longer the recommended safety protocol.

Don't remain inside a mobile home.

Don't seek shelter in a highway underpass or bridge. They aren't safe.

Don't panic. Remain calm.

How to Be Prepared for Storm Season

Make sure you know what county you live in. For example, parts of Frisco are in Denton county and parts of Frisco are in Collin county. Be sure you know what to do if your county is listed in a Tornado Watch or Warning.

- Have a plan. Conduct Tornado Drills in your home with your family.

- If you have a safe room/area, store a few bottles of water or snacks like a box of raisins or crackers in case of emergency.

- Keep a flashlight handy; check the batteries periodically.

- Purchase a storm/severe weather radio with fresh batteries and keep in your safe area.

Download weather apps for your iPhone, iPad or Android at www.wfaa.com. This app will put local radar, temperatures, current conditions and the forecast at your fingertip.



Airmen of the 136th Security Forces Squadron arrive at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas, Jan. 27, 2015, after spending more than seven months away from loved ones in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen defended the base at their deployed location. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/released)



Government travel card

Migrating to travel pin

by Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Skinner
136th Comptroller Flight

On October 17, 2014, President Obama issued an Executive Order requiring federal agencies to upgrade payment cards and systems. They must now employ enhanced security features including Chip and PIN technology.

What does this mean? Start-

ing in January 2015, Citi Bank will issue Chip and PIN enabled cards to new card applicants, individuals with cards that are scheduled to expire, and individuals reporting a lost or stolen card. Also, between July and October 2015, Citi will issue Chip and PIN cards for all remaining active

accounts.

How you can prepare? Log into CitiManager (www.citimanager.com/login) and review/update your mailing and email address and contact information under My Card Account/Card Maintenance.

Together we can

Membership matters

Why Should You Join NGAT?

NGAT is the professional association for members of the Texas Military Forces and those who support them. NGAT offers four types of membership. Pick one that is right for you...then begin enjoying all the benefits that membership in NGAT has to offer. This is a critical time in the history of the National Guard, and your benefits are under attack! As the federal budget deficit increases, the Administration and Congress will be looking to cut military and retiree benefits. Ask yourself, do you want to at least keep the benefits that you currently have? If you do, you need to be an active NGAT member. It's up to you to be counted and informed on issues that concern your career or

retirement.

Who can become a member of the National Guard Association of Texas?

- Enlisted, Warrant Officers, Officers
- Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and Texas State Guard
- Active and Retired or Veterans of the National Guard
- Associate Members - Government Officials, Family Members and Friends of the Guard

NGAT dues are not deductible as a charitable donation for federal tax purposes, but are deductible as a business expense.

The 56th NGAT conference will be held 13-15 March 2015 at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel and the

American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Come and join us.

For more information please go to the NGAT website:

<http://www.ngat.org/ngatconf.php>



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Clark and Chief Master Sgt. Charles Chavers, both from the 136th Airlift Wing, hold up a sign to welcome the Snowballers as they arrive at DFW Airport in 2014. Chavers is the current president of NGAT.

- 3D1X4 - SPECTRUM OPS**
- J1W0X2 - (9) COMBAT WEATHER (males only)**
- 1A1X1 - FLIGHT ENGINEER**
- 1A2X1 - (8) LOADMASTER**
- 2A6X4 - (3) AIRCRAFT FUELS SYSTEMS**
- 3P0X1 - SECURITY FORCES**
- 3E0X2 - ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION**
- 3M0X1 - SERVICES**
- 2A6X6 - AIRCRAFT FUELS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
- 2T1X1 - VEHICLE OPS**
- 3D1X3 - RF TRANSMISSION SYSTEM**
- 2F0X1 - (2) FUELS**
- 1S0X1 - (2) SAFETY**
- 3N1X1 - (2) BAND**

Officer Billets please visit www.agd.state.tx.us or Texas Military Forces for officer vacancies.
*(B) bonus